**■ SPORTS / A33**

**Pacquiao-Larios tickets to cost as much as $1,000**

**■ BUSINESS / B1**

**ABS-CBN reports 62% drop in 2005 net income**

**■ ACROSS / A22**

**Cebu rejects Cha-cha signature campaign for people's initiative**

**■ NEWS / A4, A9, A10**

**Complete list of 2005 successful bar examinees**

## Slain cop wrote open letter chiding Pasig colleagues

By Luige A. del Puerto and Tarra V. Quismundo

BEFORE HE WAS GUNNED DOWN IN A DARING, daylight attack, Chief Insp. Renato Marasigan had written an open letter to colleagues in the Pasig "ELITE" Police Brotherhood Association Inc.

"The glory that we have managed to enjoy for almost two decades ... has plummeted to zero level," said the slain deputy chief of the Police In-

SLAIN/ A8

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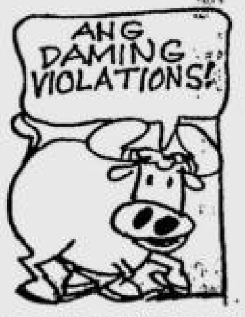
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, March 31, 2006 ★★ 10 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 113 P18 website: www.inq7.net

## 4 lawyers' groups seek disbarment of Gonzalez

By Armand N. Nocum


ANG DAMING VIOLATIONS!

FOUR LAWYERS' GROUPS are seeking the suspension and eventual disbarment of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez on the grounds that he allegedly committed acts "inimical to the ad-

4 LAWYERS'/ A20

# UP tops bar exams again; JDV niece is No. 1

By Armand N. Nocum and Leila B. Salaverria

JOAN A. DE VENECIA SAYS SHE WANTS to change the world.

The University of the Philippines College of Law valedictorian has taken the first step toward her goal, topping the list of 1,526 examinees who passed last year's bar examinations, the results of which were released last night by the Supreme Court.

The scion of a politically influential family scored 87.20 percent in the examinations, which saw a record passing rate of 27.2 percent. Two other UP graduates also topped the exams. Three examinees from Ateneo also landed in the top 10.

The 25-year-old De Venecia is the daughter of former Judge Antonio de Venecia, elder brother of House Speaker Jose de Venecia.

The other top 10 finishers were Jomini Nazareno of the Ateneo de Manila Law School (2nd, 86.40); Sheryl May B. Tanquilut (Ateneo, 85.95); Nyerson Dexter Tito Tualla (Manuel Luis Quezon University, 85.45); Tamsin Rae Lucila (UP, 85.35); Gladys Gervacio (University of Perpetual Help-Rizal, 85.30); Claudine B. Orocio-Isorena (UP, 85.20); Pedro

UP TOPS/ A21

**BAR TOPNOTCHER** Joan de Venecia

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

# GMA rides Cha-cha train

## 'It's time for old-time politicians to stand back or get run over'

**HAVING THE LAST LAUGH?** President Arroyo finds something so delightfully funny during the 11th Philippine Economic Zone Authority investors recognition day at the Westin Philippine Plaza.

EDWIN BACASMAS

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO YESTERDAY PUT HER CARDS on the table and endorsed the controversial people's initiative to amend the 1987 Constitution.

"The true power of the people is being felt with the signature campaign to change our form of government. The old-time politicians of the status quo better stand back because this train has left the station. It is time for politicians to stand back or get run over," Ms Arroyo said in a speech at the World Bank-sponsored Philippines Development Forum in Tagaytay City.

The President disclosed her position on the people's initiative even before the Supreme Court could settle the legal questions surrounding the exercise and the Commission on Elections could determine whether the signature drive by Sigaw ng Bayan had complied with the required 12 percent of the total registered voters and 3 percent in each legislative district.

After the President's declaration, her Cabinet and advisers took turns defending the people's initiative after days of denying involvement in it.

In a statement, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said: "It is time for us to cross the Rubicon.

"We have achieved momentum. Let us not

GMA RIDES/ A19

## JDV sees 'interim parliament' by July

By Michael Lim Ubac

AN "INTERIM PARLIAMENT" WILL TAKE power as early as July to continue the process of amending the Constitution after the shift to a parliamentary system of government shall have been made, Speaker Jose de Venecia said yesterday.

In disclosing a timeline for Charter change through a people's initiative, De Venecia said the verification of the five million signatures expressing approval for the shift to a parliamentary system would be completed by April 15.

He said this would be followed by a monthlong campaign to woo the support of the majority of the people, then a plebiscite in June to ratify the shift.

De Venecia said he expected an interim parliament to convene in July at the latest "to tackle the other key amendments." He said the June 2007 polls would push through to elect members of a new parliament.

Under Republic Act No. 6735, the act providing for a system of initiatives and referendums, the "proposition in an initiative on the Constitution" must be "approved by the majority of the votes cast in the plebiscite."

But a smaller number of people—12 percent of the total number of registered voters as signatories, with every legislative district represented by at least 3 percent of the voters—would be sufficient to

JDV SEES/ A19

## 2 lawmakers hit Favila for calling jobless Pinoys choosy

By Michael Lim Ubac and Jerome Aning

TRADE SECRETARY PETER FAVILA IS Either "misinformed," or he has just "insulting" the millions of unemployed Filipinos, two party-list lawmakers said yesterday.

Representatives Joel Villanueva of Citizens Battle Against Corruption (Cibac) and Teodoro Casiño of Bayan Muna reacted strongly to Favila's claim Wednesday that many Filipinos were unemployed because they were choosy about jobs.

Villanueva said Favila's assessment "insults the millions of Filipinos who are treated as slaves abroad, working in dire conditions away from their loved ones, just to provide a decent life for their families."

He said the fact that teachers were willing to become domestic helpers,

2 LAWMAKERS/ A8

### WB FORECAST ON RP

## Faster economic growth, but hunger also growing

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE WORLD BANK FORESEES FASTER economic growth for the Philippines and further improvement in the government's finances this year even as more Filipinos consider themselves to be poor and hungry.

In its twice-yearly outlook on East Asia, the World Bank said the Philippine economy was expected to grow 5.3 percent in 2006 and 5.6 percent in 2007 compared to 5.1 percent last year due to rising consumption fueled by strong remittances from overseas Filipino workers.

The World Bank's projected growth rate for the Philippine economy is slightly lower than the government's revised target range of growth of 5.5 to 6.2 percent this year.

The Washington-based bank also noted that despite two years of Philippine economic growth, surveys showed that 17 percent of Filipinos reported suffering hunger compared to 12 percent last year and over 49 percent considered themselves impoverished compared to 48 percent in 2005.

"Recent surveys indicate that more Filipinos are suffering from hunger . . . suggesting that the positive growth performance in the last two years is not perceived to have been widely shared," the bank said in its report on the Philippines.

The Philippines is one of Asia's biggest importers of rice, its main food staple, due to its rapidly rising population and poor agricultural infrastructure.

Analysts estimate the Philippine economy needs to grow 7 to 8 percent per year to cut poverty significantly among its 85 million people. The population of

FASTER/ A21

**THE CARDINAL.** A rousing welcome is given Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, the archbishop of Manila, upon his arrival at the Naia on Thursday night from the Vatican, where with 14 other bishops, Pope Benedict XVI elevated him to the elite College of Cardinals which advises the Pope, and will someday elect his successor. The new prince of the Church will say a thanksgiving Mass tomorrow, April 1, at 10 a.m. with President Arroyo and other top officials scheduled to attend.

JESS YUSON

## [illegible]t OFW bank for 'world's greatest workers'

By Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO YESterday announced plans to establish the first OFW bank as part of government efforts to help overseas Filipino workers remit their earnings conveniently through postal systems here and abroad, and at lower service rates.

The President said the "newest service" was an offering to "our new heroes and greatest workers in the world," who sent a record high of $11 billion in remittances to the country last year.

"So that we can help our OFWs in saving and sending their money back home, we will make the Philippine Postal Savings Bank (PPSB) an OFW bank," she said during a roundtable discussion with government officials in Malacañang.

The government-run PPSB will be renamed Philippine Overseas Postal Bank, according to its president Rolando Macasaet. The new OFW bank will be operational in three to six months, he said.

Ms Arroyo said the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) would invest P1 billion in the modernization of the PPSB facilities.

Macasaet proposed the establishment of the OFW bank at Tuesday's Cabinet meeting and this was "approved by Cabinet members," the

FIRST OFW/ A18

**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: Eastern, Central and Southern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers while Southern Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/03/30/06 SOURCE PAGASA

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Partly Cloudy | Iloilo/Bacolod | Partly Cloudy |
| Baguio | Partly Cloudy | Roxas | Partly Cloudy |
| Tuguegarao | Partly Cloudy | Cebu | Partly Cloudy |
| Laoag | Partly Cloudy | Tacloban | Partly Cloudy |
| Clark Zone | Partly Cloudy | Gen. Santos | Cloudy with Rains |
| Tagaytay | Partly Cloudy | Zamboanga | Cloudy with Rains |
| Legazpi | Partly Cloudy | Cagayan de Oro | Partly Cloudy |
| Calapan | Partly Cloudy | Davao | Cloudy with Rains |

# No blackouts, energy execs assure public

By Abigail L. Ho
and Gil C. Cabacungan

ENERGY OFFICIALS yesterday assured the public that there will be no massive blackouts or power interruptions in Luzon as a result of a Supreme Court ruling ordering the relocation of the key power transmission lines south of Metro Manila.

LOTILLA

"We will ask for a reconsideration. Until the decision is final and executory, we should not fear any interruption," said Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla.

Lotilla said the energy department has, on instructions from President Macapagal-Arroyo, begun preparing alternative and contingency plans.

The Supreme Court recently ordered the shutdown and relocation of the 230-kilovolt Sucat-Araneta-Balintawak transmission line, a key link to the electricity supply of Luzon.

The decision has triggered fears of massive power blackouts in Metro Manila and nearby provinces for at least a year.

National Transmission Corp. president and CEO Alan Ortiz earlier said it would take Transco about 12 to 18 months to put in place an alternative line to divert the power from the Sucat-Araneta-Balintawak line.

"The government is fully aware of the economic damage of power outages as we have had several power blackouts in the past. We are preparing all necessary measures to prevent massive blackouts should the SC decision become final and executory," Lotilla said.

The March 23 high court ruling upheld a Makati court decision in 2000 stopping the National Power Corp. from transmitting power through its transmission lines that run from Sucat in Parañaque to Araneta Ave. in Quezon City.

The lower court acted on a petition filed by residents of Dasmariñas Village in Makati which opposed the transmission line project, claiming that residents in the areas where the transmission lines pass through would be at risk from radiation.

But the DOE has cited a joint environmental study conducted by the Department of Health and Napocor in 2001 which showed that the actual electro-magnetic field radiation levels of the Sucat-Araneta-Balintawak line were not harmful to public health.

Tests showed that the electric and magnetic field readings were below the limits set by the DOH and the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP), the DOE said.

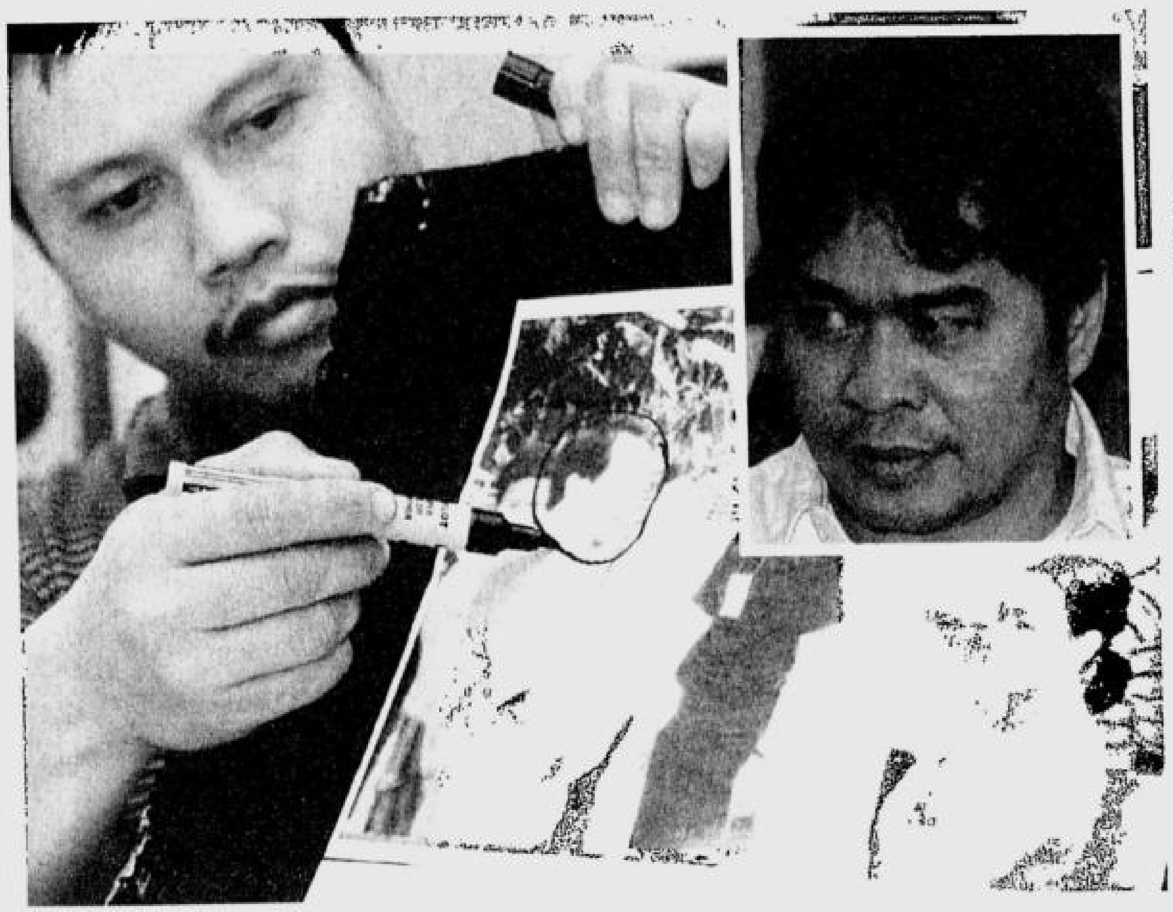
In its March 23 decision, the Supreme Court also said there was not enough evidence that the power lines could be endangering the health and safety of residents in the areas where the lines pass.

Lotilla said the Napocor and Transco were now preparing to file a motion for reconsideration with the Supreme Court.

In the meantime, he said the DOE, Napocor and Transco were already reviewing their contingency plans and making preparations to tap alternatives in case the SC decision does become final and executory.

In an earlier interview, Ortiz said shutting down the line would cause power outages in half of Metro Manila, including vital installations like the Edsa Metro Rail Transit 3 (MRT-3) and the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

The Makati Central Business District, the country's financial center, would also suffer power outages, he said.



**A MILITANT** member of the human rights group Karapatan points to Jaime Beltran Fuentes, star witness in the government's sedition case against six party-list congressmen, as the man identified as a military asset. Fuentes had claimed to be a security aide of a leftist personality. Inset shows Fuentes in his appearance before the Department of Justice. RAFFY LERMA

# Star witness exposed as military asset

By Blanche S. Rivera

WHEN OSCAR LAPIDA JR. SAW the military's main witness against party-list legislators accused of plotting to topple President Macapagal-Arroyo baring his face on television a week ago, he could not believe his eyes.

As it turned out, Jaime B. Fuentes, who claimed he was the chief security officer of a known Leftist leader, was the same man seen throwing his weight around at the Philippine Army's 74th Infantry Battalion headquarters in Catanauan, Quezon a month ago, Lapida told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Lapida, a media liaison officer of the Southern Tagalog chapter of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, said he met Fuentes on Feb. 11 while he and other Bayan members and affiliates were traveling to Mulanay, Quezon on a fact-finding mission.

Their convoy of five jeeps was stopped by soldiers in front of the Army detachment and barred from moving onward because they had no permit from the Mulanay mayor to investigate alleged human rights abuses in the area.

It was while the group was negotiating with the Army that Lapida and other leaders of the mission came face to face with Fuentes, who was mocking the people inside the jeeps.

"Don't you know me? Are you from Bayan? Are you still doing this for the people and the party?" Lapida quoted Fuentes as asking members of the mission as he went from jeep to jeep.

According to Lapida, Fuentes had introduced himself simply as "Omar," a nominee of the defeated party-list group Alliance for Nationalism and Democracy (Anad) during the 2004 elections.

Anad is known to have held rallies in support of Ms Arroyo and caused a stir last year when some of its members figured in a brawl with organizers of the "citizens' court trial" of the President.

Fuentes was followed by armed soldiers as he bullied members of the mission, one of whom managed to secretly photograph the man, Lapida said.

Lapida said he saw Fuentes on television last March 23 during a live coverage of a hearing at the Department of justice on rebellion charges filed against party-list Representatives Rafael Mariano, Crispin Beltran, Satur Ocampo, Teddy Casiño, Joel Virador and Liza Maza.

Fuentes, whom police had earlier presented in public wearing a hood, appeared at the March 23 hearing wearing a hat, dark shades and a towel that covered part of his face. State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco forced him to expose his face on pain of throwing out his affidavit against the legislators.

Lapida said that as soon as he recognized the face on TV, he immediately had the photos developed, showing that Fuentes and Omar were the same person.

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# Etta slams NPA on land mine use

THE DECISION OF COMMUNIST REBELS TO continue using land mines to attack military targets and vital government facilities could mean more violations of the rights of the civilian population, according to party-list Rep. Loreta Ann "Etta" Rosales.

It was a "drastic and desperate" decision, said the Akbayan party-list representative and member of the House committee on human rights.

The central committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines recently called on its armed wing, the New People's Army, to "inflict casualties on an advancing enemy force by using land mines, small teams and snipers."

Rosales said that if the CPP spokesperson Rogelio Rosal was quoted correctly as having made that statement, "he blatantly violates the human rights and international humanitarian law agreement the CPP signed with the Philippine government."

She said the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law which the communist rebels and the government signed during peace talks during the Estrada administration provided for the application of the principles of international humanitarian law "in order to protect the civilian population and ... persons who do not take direct part or who have ceased to take part in the armed hostilities."

Rosales noted that one of the treaties related to international humanitarian law was the Ottawa Treaty that banned the use of anti-personnel mines.

She said the communist insurgents' claim that the NPA did not use "contact-detonated landmines" – or anti-personnel land mines – was belied by reports on the field.

She cited a report that a civilian was a casualty of a contact-detonated land mine planted by the NPA in Puerto Galera, Mindoro.

In Butuan City, three soldiers were killed, allegedly when one of them stepped on a land mine.

"Rosal's call to step up armed action against the military regardless of whether this is violative or not of human rights and international humanitarian law recalls a Palparan mindset," she said, referring to Army Gen. Jovito Palparan, who has been accused of summary execution of militants and their sympathizers.

"Both Rosal and Palparan apparently come from the same mold, a mold that believes that the only solution to the problems of Philippine society is the use of force, armed, violent and coercive, regardless of the harm they do to the life of the people and their right to dignity, security and self-fulfillment," she said.

She urged Congress to prioritize the enactment of House Bill 2675, or the Comprehensive Law on Landmines, which would be in compliance with the country's obligations under two related treaties – the Ottawa Treaty and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Landmines ratified on Feb. 15, 2000 and the 1996 Amended Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines. *Michael Lim Ubac*

# 4,000 tenants to receive Luisita land

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM said yesterday it has identified about 4,000 farmers entitled to a piece of land when the Cojuangco-owned Hacienda Luisita is distributed to farm workers.

Agrarian Reform Undersecretary Narciso Nieto said the government was nearly finished with the identification of beneficiaries and would soon proceed with the survey of the 4,915-hectare sugar estate.

Nieto said it was possible that more than 3,000 hectares of the hacienda owned by the family of former President Corazon Aquino would be subject to distribution after excluding land occupied by residences and roads.

Nieto's statement came as Luisita workers sought a meeting with DAR provincial and regional officials to raise a concern on the area to be distributed to the workers.

Jobert Pahilga, counsel for the Alyansa ng mga Magbubukid ng Asyenda Luisita (Ambala), said the DAR issued a notice of coverage for only 2,039.64 hectares.

The Ambala has asked the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council to subject to land reform the original 6,453 hectares owned by the Tarlac Development Corp. or Tadeco. *Blanche S. Rivera*

# US Catholic Church set to donate P14M for Leyte

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE United States is poised to donate as much as $280,000 (roughly P14.2 million) to families of victims of the massive landslide in Southern Leyte on Feb. 17.

The hefty donation will be coursed through the Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the official international humanitarian agency of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Quoting the agency, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines yesterday said more than a third of the projected amount had already been raised.

On top of the money, the agency will also bring its housing partner, Graham Saunders, to help build permanent houses for more than 300 families displaced by the landslide.

The CBCP said the CRS had been searching for permanent relocation sites so construction could begin in the next few weeks.

In the meantime, the agency was busy working with Caritas in providing basic essentials like rice, sleeping mats, canned goods, soap and milk for residents of Barangay Guinsaugon.

The CRS donation was a welcome relief to Guinsaugon folk who still rely on goodwill to survive each day at relocation centers.

Authorities are rushing to build permanent homes for them considering that relief good could only sustain some 300 families for so long. Many of the survivors relied on the rice field that was wiped out by mud and boulders.

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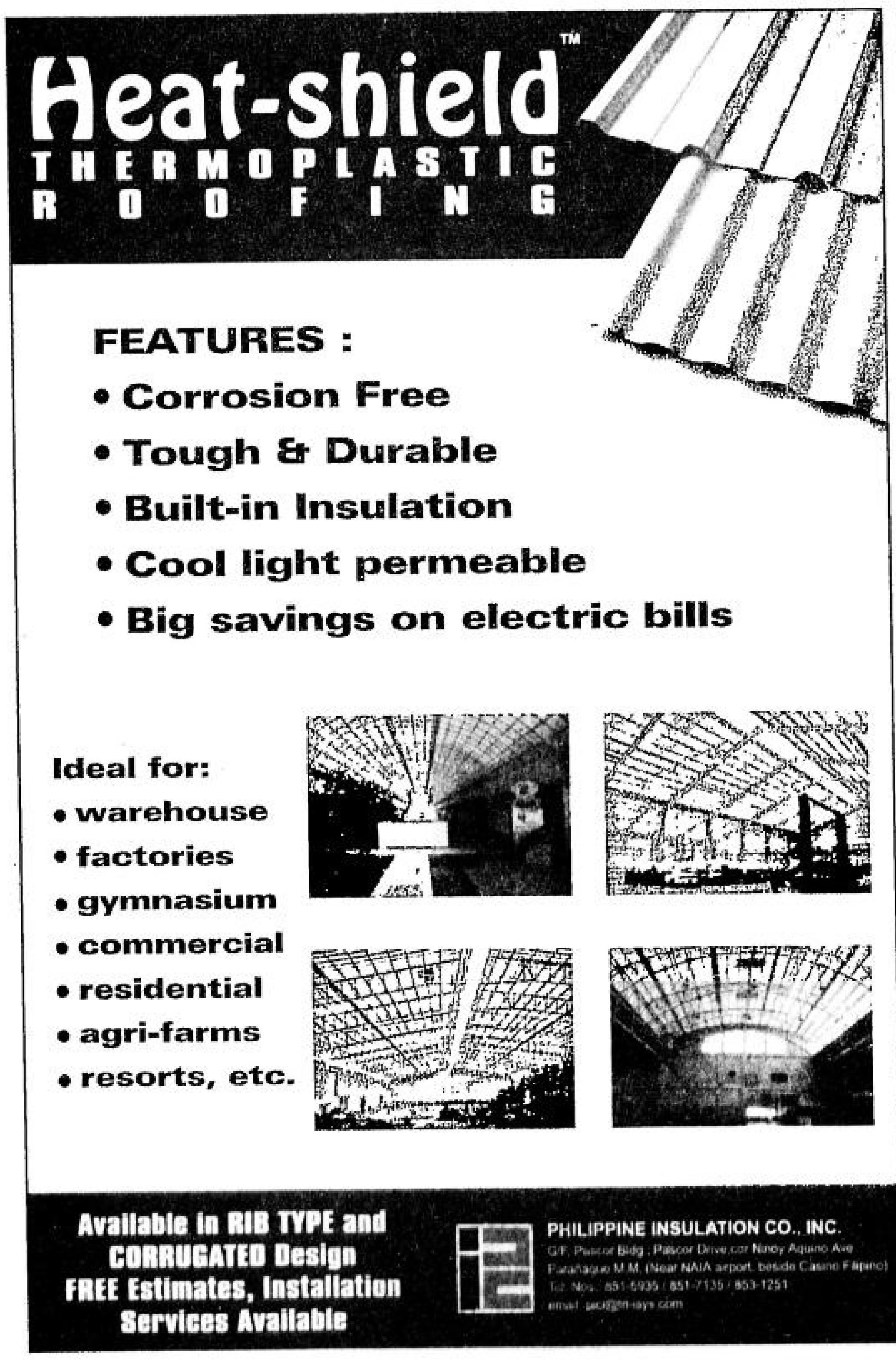
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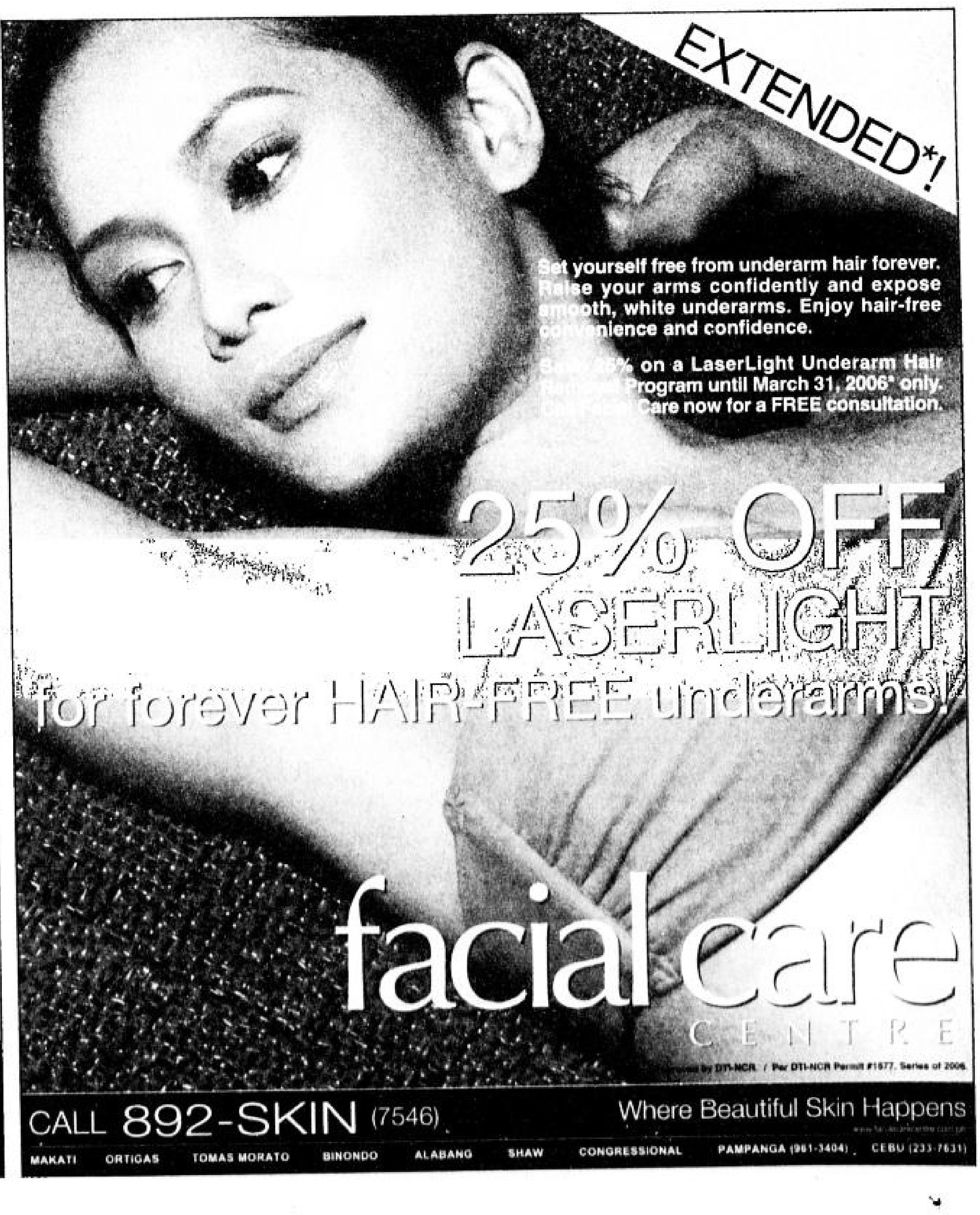
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## Correction

IN LATER EDITIONS OF THE MARCH 30 ISSUE, a front-page story—"Red leaders urge NPA to expand use of land mines vs military"—misstated the date of the founding anniversary of the communist New People's Army. The NPA marked its 37th—not 27th—anniversary of its founding on Wednesday—not Thursday.

* * *

*Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.*

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# Retiring Senga won't rush action vs Lim, 19 others

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

SENGA

THOUGH HE HAS LESS THAN four months left in office, Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga is not rushing his decision on whether or not to court-martial the officers accused of plotting to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo on Feb. 24.

Despite insisting the military will apply the full force of the law against the alleged coup plotters, Senga has not acted on Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon's recommendation that ex-Scout Rangers head Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and 19 others be charged in a military court.

The Marine officers led by former 1st Marine Brigade commander Col. Ariel Querubin, who were to join the coup, have so far not been investigated for their role in the failed attempt.

"We have to do this [investigation] properly, not just satisfy the clamor to rush it. Those investigated should be given due process," Senga said yesterday at a breakfast forum at Club Filipino in San Juan.

While he denied the investigation into the Feb. 24 plot was "dragging," Senga could not say when he would act on the court-martial recommendation.

"We will do it as expeditiously as possible," he said.

Senga is set to retire on July 21 after 11 months in office.

Esperon turned in his recommendation that mutiny charges be filed against Lim and 19 other officers to Senga on March 22.

Senga had earlier claimed that Lim and Querubin had tried to recruit him to the withdrawal of support from Ms Arroyo they were planning on Feb. 24 during the 20th anniversary celebration of Edsa 1.

Lim, Querubin and several other officers had expressed disgruntlement over the lack of an investigation into the alleged involvement of the President, an election official and some senior military officers in cheating during the 2004 election as revealed in the "Hello Garci" wiretaps.

Lim is restricted to quarters at Fort Bonifacio while a number of his subordinates led by Lt. Col. Nestor Flordeliza, Maj. Jason Aquino and Capt. Ruben Guinolbay are either detained or restricted to other military camps.

Querubin, on the other hand, is neither restricted to quarters nor under investigation for the Feb. 24 coup plot. He and some fellow Marine officers are instead being investigated for instigating the six-hour standoff at their headquarters in Fort Bonifacio on Feb. 26 in protest over the relief of their commandant, Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda.

Senga said Marine officials had concluded their investigation of that incident and submitted their report to the Navy Inspector General.

But a check with Marine headquarters yesterday showed the probe being conducted by deputy commandant Brig. Gen. Romeo Abayan was still going on.

"I did not see the report," Senga admitted. "It was forwarded I think to [Navy] headquarters so the Navy will conduct its own investigation at their level."

# Coast Guard to look into 'floating' shabu labs

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE PHILIPPINE Coast Guard will look into reports that drug syndicates have taken their operations out to sea in the wake of raids of drug laboratories in Metro Manila.

Coast Guard Commandant Vice Admiral Arthur Gosingan also vowed to work with the Philippine National Police in dismantling such operations by providing all the necessary logistics and assistance.

Earlier, an official of the PNP's Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operation Task Force said yachts are being used as "floating drug laboratories" to produce shabu (metamphetamine hydrochloride) and other illegal drugs that are sold in the country.

"I will have to verify that," Gosingan said in a phone interview when asked about the PCG's actions regarding the PNP's statement

He said he had yet to receive specific information about yachts or other sea vessels being used as drug laboratories. But he added that once the PCG receives details about the illegal drug laboratories, it would coordinate with the PNP in conducting a raid.

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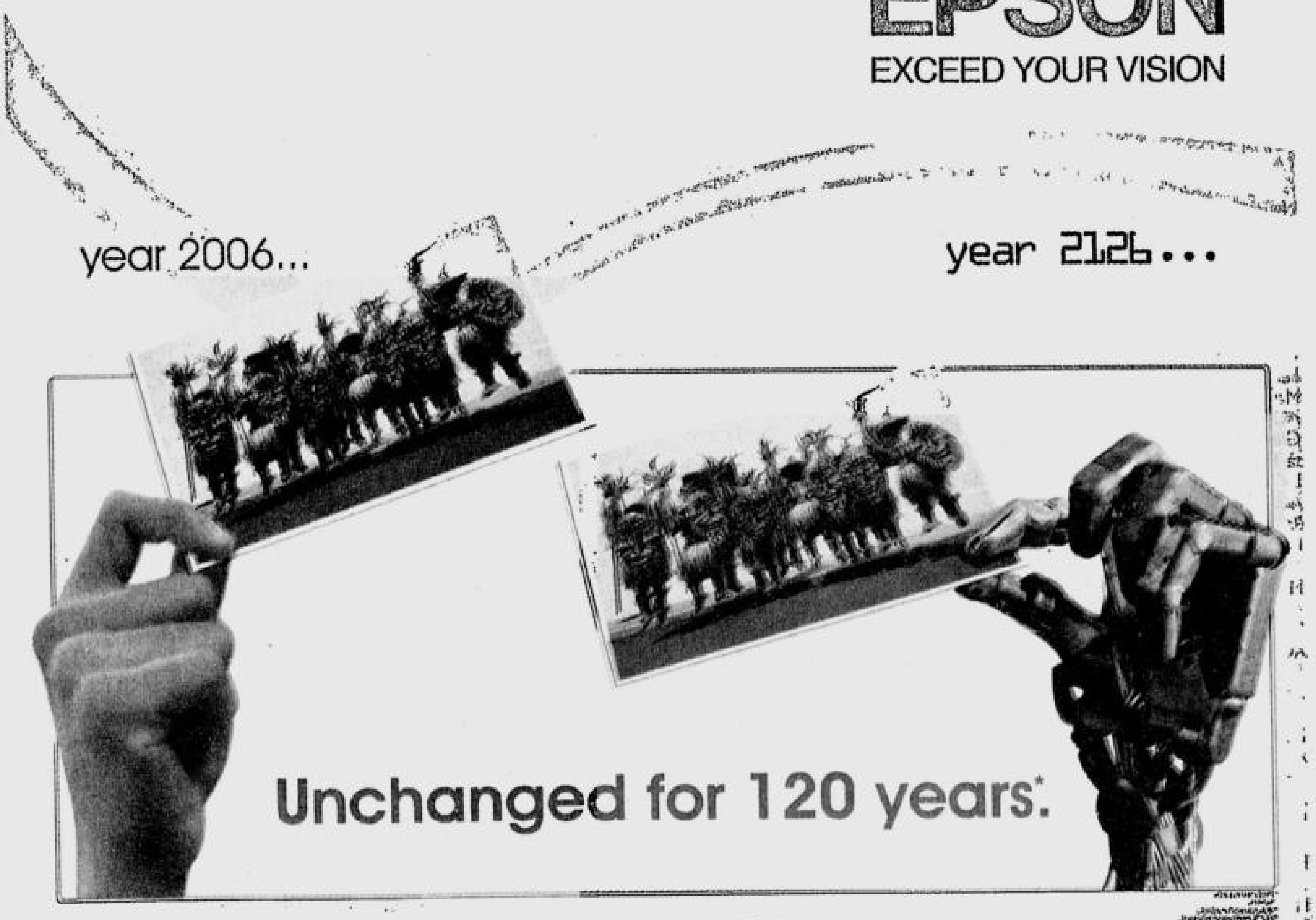
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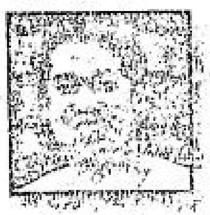

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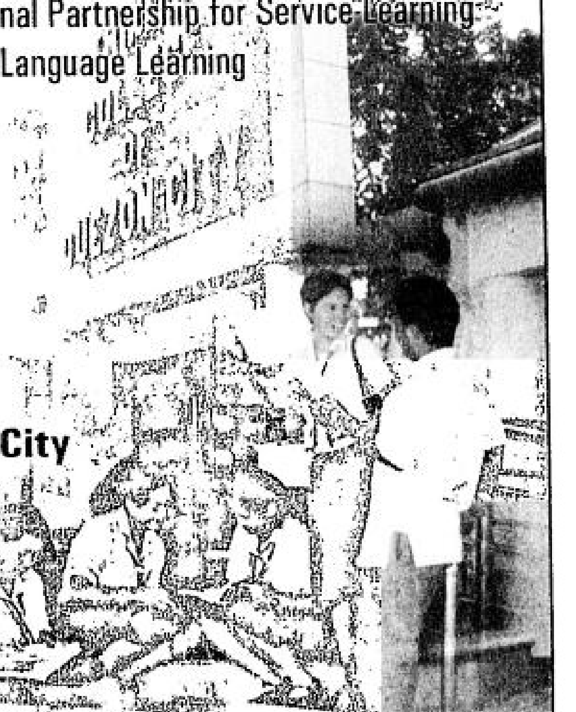

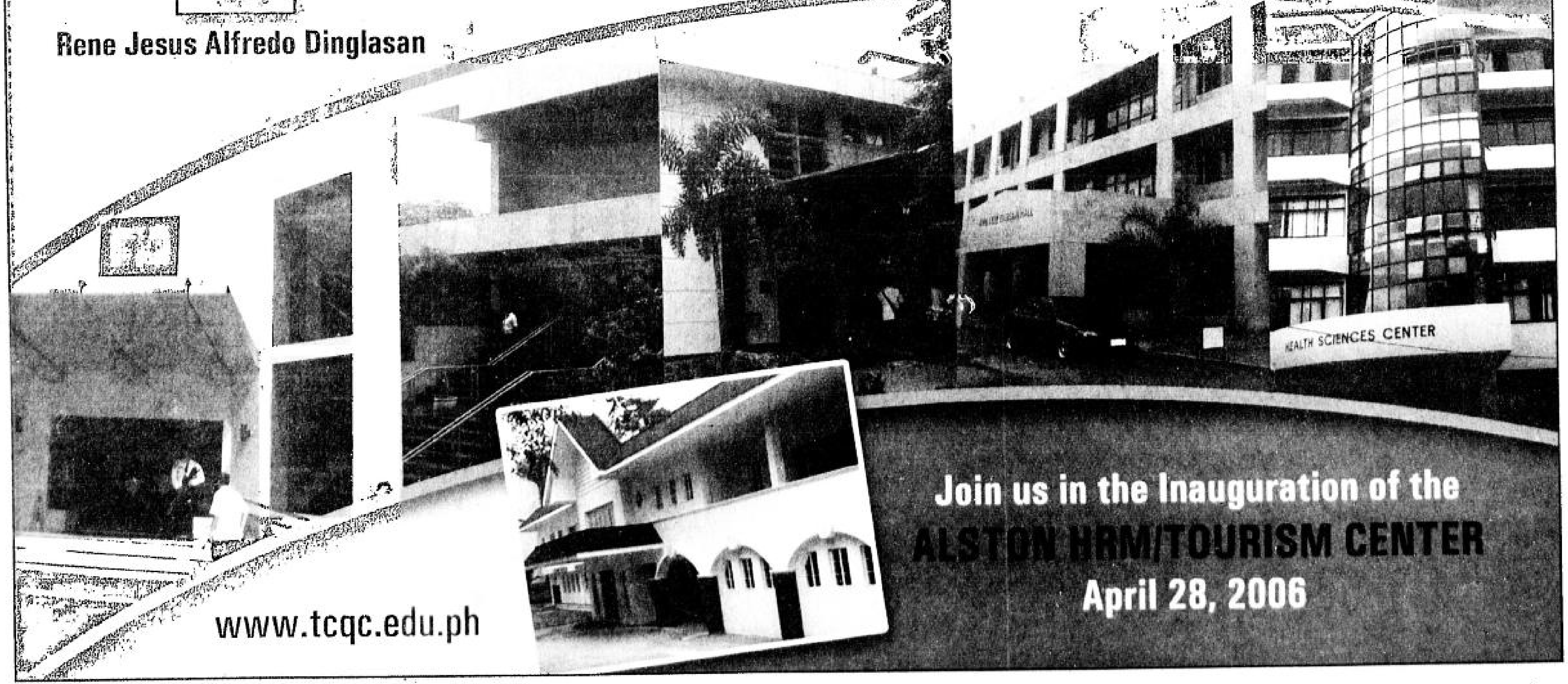

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# Talks in final stage; GMA sees peace with Moro rebs this year

PEACE WITH MORO SEPARATIST rebels in Mindanao can be achieved this year, according to President Macapagal-Arroyo as she urged donors to increase aid to the strife-torn region.

"Before the year is out, we will be able to achieve a lasting peace in Mindanao with your support," the President said at a meeting with the country's foreign aid donors.

"Yet the last mile is always the hardest sailing... the winds of resistance will blow most fiercely," she said as she called on the donor countries to speed up the release of aid money to the south "to help us through this last mile more smoothly."

She said that "nothing will be more powerful for the future development of the Philippines than to bring peace, stability and justice" to the resource-rich southern island of Mindanao, the home of the country's Muslim minority.

The main Muslim separatist group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, said earlier this month it expects "rough sailing" in the final stage of the talks.

The government and the MILF announced in Kuala Lumpur last month that they had reached a preliminary deal on the controversial issue of ancestral lands—communal farms that came under state control when the Philippines became a Spanish colony in the 17th century.

Negotiations between the government and the 12,000-member MILF are due to resume soon after being postponed due to a foiled coup plot against Ms Arroyo in February. The two sides have agreed a ceasefire but sporadic clashes still take place. *AFP*

# Gov't bullish on sale of 2 TV stations

By Alcuin Papa

THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON GOOD Government is confident it can sell the RPN-9 and IBC-13 television networks amid claims that the state-controlled TV stations have liabilities that far outweigh their assets, thus making them unattractive to buyers.

"That's not true. Those are just speculations. The perception is that the liabilities might exceed the assets. But there's nothing sure," said PCGG Commissioner Ricardo Abcede.

Abcede said it would be best to wait for the results of an audit being conducted by CLSA Exchange Capital, the firm that won the bid to be RPN-9's financial adviser.

A financial adviser for IBC-13 has yet to be designated by the PCGG.

"The financial adviser is looking into that and we can't make a definitive statement until their study is over. We should be more careful when we make statements like these on the question of the liabilities and assets of the two stations. Let's wait for what financial adviser will say," Abcede said.

He said the government, which sequestered the two networks after the first Edsa people power revolution in 1986, was determined to dispose of the properties because of losses.

"The government is losing in these two entities. What's the point in continuing [operations]? We still want to dispose of the two stations. But let's wait for what CLSA will say," said Abcede.

The PCGG commission said he was also against the idea of government being in the media industry.

"It's OK to have one station. Like in the UK, the BBC is earning because it is the only government station there," he said.

Recently, Jose AR Bengzon III, chief privatization officer of the Privatization and Management Office, and Felipe Gozon, president of GMA-7, released statements saying that it might be difficult to sell the two stations because of their tax liabilities. The PMO is an attached agency of the finance department.

Abcede earlier announced that the PCGG was targeting a sale of the two stations this year. RPN-9 has a tag price of P1.3 billion and IBC-13, P2 billion.

The two networks have been on the chopping block since being taken over in 1986 from Marcos crony Roberto Benedicto who surrendered them to the government in 1990 through a compromise agreement.

# Bird flu-free RP to resume poultry exports to Japan

THE PHILIPPINES, WHICH HAS REMAINED free of the bird flu virus, aims to resume poultry exports to Japan and to ship to new markets in Asia, Africa and Europe, a senior industry official said yesterday.

Ruben Pascual, chair of the Poultry Export Board, said firms had submitted documents to Japan to prove local poultry remained free of the deadly strain of the avian influenza virus called H5N1.

"We are confident the Japanese government will soon allow the resumption of exports," Pascual told Reuters.

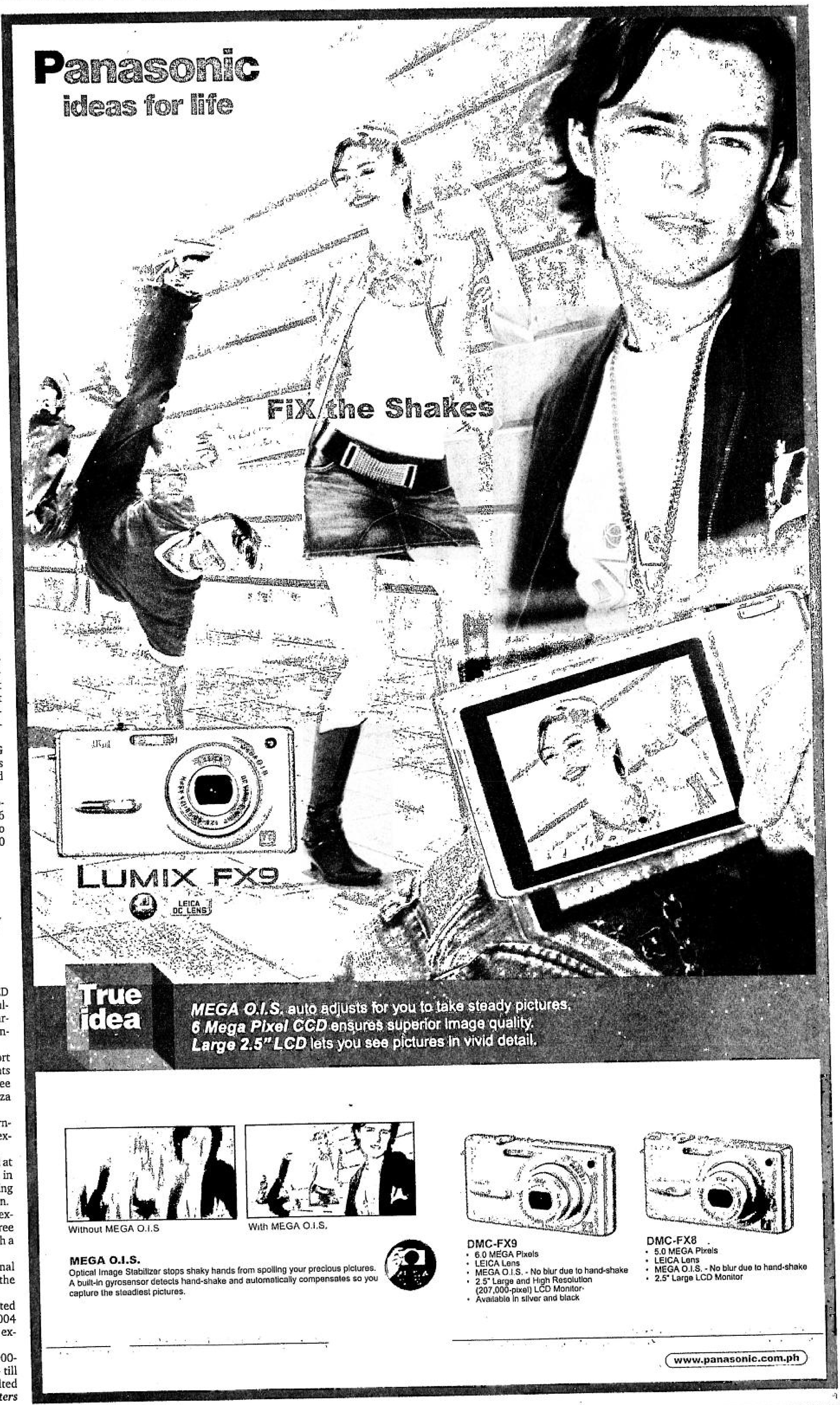
The H5N1 avian influenza strain has killed at least 98 people around the world, mainly in Asia and the Middle East, since 2003, according to figures from the World Health Organization.

The Philippines voluntarily stopped exports of poultry to Japan in July after three ducks at an isolated farm were infected with a weaker strain of bird flu.

Tests conducted by the Australian Animal Health Laboratory on samples found at the farm found no active infection of H5N1.

Japan, one of Asia's biggest buyers, started buying directly from the Philippines in 2004 after outbreaks of bird flu in major poultry exporting countries.

Pascual said the country exported 5,000-6,000 tons of poultry to Japan from 2004 till July 8 last year when the Philippines halted shipments. *Reuters*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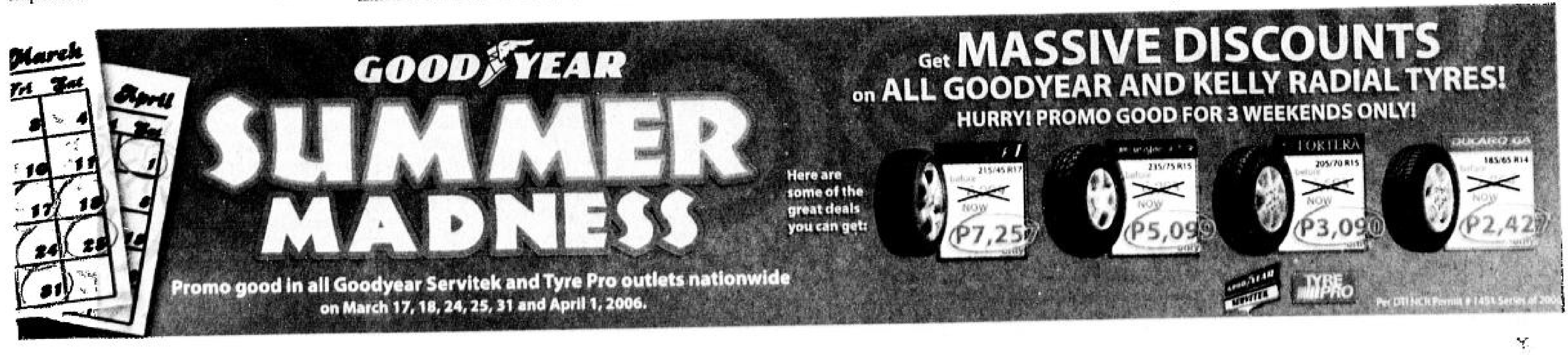
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# 2 lawmakers hit Favila for calling jobless Pinoys choosy

From page A1

while doctors worked as nurses and caregivers abroad belied Favila's observation.

"I suggest that Secretary Favila talk to experts who have updated facts and data," the Cibac lawmaker said.

Favila said the unemployment problem was more of a lack of a desire to work rather than the absence of jobs.

"We have plenty of jobs available in the country today, but the problem is some Filipinos are just *pihikan* or choosy," Favila had said.

He made the statement after a research group said that the government was facing a jobs deficit of crisis proportions.

The Labor Education and Research Network said on Tuesday that if the number of unemployed (2.8 million), underemployed (6.9 million) and those not looking for work (1.1 million) were combined, there would be 10.8 million out of the 36 million workforce needing jobs.

Rene Ofreneo, director of the School of Labor and Industrial Relations at the University of the Philippines, said the National Statistics Office's Labor Force Survey in January found that employment in the formal sector was shrinking while employment in the informal sector of the labor market was growing.

**VILLANUEVA:** Insult to OFWs

**FAVILA:** Choosy job-seekers

**CASIÑO:** Come down from ivory tower.

### Ivory tower

"What kind of analysis is that?" said Casiño of Favila's statement.

Casiño said "the stark reality is that Filipino workers don't have the luxury of being choosy."

He urged Favila to come down from "his ivory tower" once in a while to talk to ordinary workers, the majority of whom didn't even earn the minimum wage.

Casiño said that even if reports were true that a million jobs were available in call centers, aviation, mining and agribusiness, "what is that compared to the 2.8 million Filipinos without work and 7 million more looking for additional jobs?"

He said the bottom line was that there was not enough work to go around.

"Favila is misinformed if he believes that business process outsourcing seats are unfilled because Filipinos don't want to work the night shift. In fact, applicants are scrambling even for the night shift due to the night differential pay, but many fail to qualify," the Bayan Muna lawmaker said.

Labor Secretary Patricia A. Sto. Tomas joined Favila in belying claims by labor research groups that there was a looming job crisis.

Sto. Tomas said many quality jobs in a number of sectors were available but these remained vacant because of a jobs-skills mismatch.

### 9 employment generators

Citing the findings of last month's National Manpower Summit, Sto. Tomas said nine sectors were projected to generate more than 4 million new jobs from 2006 to 2010, of which more than 1.2 million were expected to be generated in 2006-2007.

For 2006 alone, the top three job generating sectors are agribusiness with a projected 329,609 openings, followed by cyber services with 148,350, and hotels and restaurants with 56,001.

Sto. Tomas, however, said that "while there are quality jobs available in these sectors, the problem lies in mismatch, or the challenge of filling them with qualified manpower possessing the required skills and competencies."

In the call centers, for instance, the employer or recruiter has to interview about 100 applicants and only four or five of them would be hired while the rest would be rejected because of lack of qualifications—mainly English communication skills.

### Iraq

Creative services, medical tourism, health services, mining and aviation industries, and overseas employment are the other employment generators, according to the labor department.

Militant labor groups were not amused by Favila's observation.

"If Filipinos are choosy, why do they still sneak into Iraq despite the violence there. Also, all the work that foreigners dislike, such as care-giving, are being taken by Filipinos," said Elmer Labog, national chair of the Kilusang Mayo Uno.

"The workers are looking for work where they can have decent salaries and good working conditions, which the government has the obligation to ensure," he said. *(See related story on Page A29.)*

Labog said that despite the government's boast that it was able to create 750,000 new jobs as of January, most of these jobs were contractual, part-time or menial.

# *Still jobless? Go to Camp Crame*

By Luige A. del Puerto

ARE YOU A COLLEGE GRADUATE in need of a job who would be satisfied with a gross salary of about P12,000 a month?

Try the Philippine National Police.

Officials yesterday said the PNP would be recruiting 3,000 cops this year, following assurances by Malacañang that there was enough money to hire more people.

Applicants must be college graduates, 5'4" tall for males and 5'2" for females, and not more than 29 years old.

The requirements include transcript of records and clearances from the police and the National Bureau of Investigation.

Applicants will take an eligibility exam conducted by the National Police Commission. If successful, they will undergo a one-year training program.

### P1B for loyalty

At the PNP anniversary celebration in January, Ms Arroyo announced that she was setting aside P1 billion in additional funds for PNP personnel for their loyalty to her administration.

Part of the money will be used to hire more cops in the next few years, according to Ms Arroyo.

PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao has approved the recruitment of 3,000 men and women and instructed the Directorate for Personnel and Records Management to begin processing applications for Police Officer 1.

The new cops will simply fill up the 2,900 positions that were left vacant last year and will become vacant within the first semester of this year, said the PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao Jr.

### Slots for women

Of the job openings, 15 percent or about 450 slots are reserved for women, who comprise nearly 9 percent of the police force, Pagdilao said.

Each regional police office is assigned a quota, based on the police to population ratio of the area, while national support units such as the Intelligence Group, Criminal Investigation Group and Maritime Group are allocated 200 recruits each.

The Metro Manila Police has been allotted 150 recruits. The number is on top of the 250 recruits the police in the capital hired last year.

The 3,000 police personnel to be hired will boost the PNP's total force to 114,881, or one policeman for every 715 people.

The PNP said the P1 billion in additional funds would allow it to buy 5,000 handguns and 500 patrol vehicles.

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# Slain cop wrote open letter chiding Pasig colleagues

From page A1

ternal Affairs Service in the letter released to the INQUIRER yesterday.

"The once famous police force seemed to have vanished in the air," Marasigan said, blaming rogue cops in his lament.

### 'Their success our future'

"Let us guard one another and report our comrades joining evil forces for a fee. Their success is our failure, for there is no way that criminal syndicate will flourish without enjoying the protection of some scalawags in uniform."

The letter was prompted by the discovery of the so-called "shabu tiangge" near the Pasig City capitol last month. It was bulldozed several days later by Pasig City Mayor Vicente Eusebio in what City Hall critics said was an attempt to destroy evidence.

On Wednesday morning, four men in maroon shirts casually walked up to the bulletproof Pajero that Marasigan was driving as it slowed down at a street corner and opened fire at the police officer, a former president and founding member of the Pasig police brotherhood. He sustained 12 bullet wounds, including six in the head and face.

At least three police units are now tracking down the gunmen. Apart from the inquiry by the Eastern Police District, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and the Internal Affairs Service, Marasigan's own unit, are doing parallel investigations, said IAS Inspector General Alexis Canonizado.

Since Wednesday, all the men from Marasigan's unit have been in the field, gathering evidence. On its closed office door were the words "on mission."

### Theories advanced

Several theories have been advanced for the murder, including Marasigan's involvement in the investigation of some of the widely publicized incidents in the Pasig police blotter.

Yesterday, the IAS chief revealed that he had submitted to PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao the findings of the panel that investigated the killing of three suspected car robbers by officers of the Traffic Management Group last Nov. 7 at the Ortigas Center.

Although he refused to discuss IAS's recommendations, Canonizado disclosed that the probe body, which had Marasigan as its spokesperson, had found varying degrees of administrative and criminal liabilities allegedly on the part of the TMG officers involved in the operation.

"I have submitted the recommendations of the panel to the chief. I did not change anything. I submitted [them] as is," Canonizado said.

### The NPA angle

Another ranking IAS official told the INQUIRER it was unlikely that the New People's Army had a hand in the killing of Marasigan.

"The NPA angle ... is a bit far-fetched," said the officer. "He has property in Quezon province, and (the NPA) did not touch him there."

PO3 Rogelio Baltazar, case investigator from the Pasig Police Station, said that Marasigan's many dealings as a law enforcer and businessman were part of a broad investigation.

"The killers were angry at him, but we don't know yet what angered them ... There has yet to emerge a single angle and we are looking at all possibilities, and then we will eliminate what are less likely to be the cause," said Baltazar.

Marasigan, who spent some 30 years in the service, had not driven far from his house on Wednesday when the assassins struck, spraying bullets at his vehicle and then fleeing on foot.

### Sketches of suspects

With additional descriptions of witnesses, police added another artist's sketch to the two released hours after the shooting. Roughly as tall and as young as the two suspects described earlier, Baltazar said the third suspect may also be between 20 and 30 years old, between 5'4" and 5'5" in height, his long hair in a ponytail.

Chief Supt. Charlemagne Alejandrino, the EPD director, also said investigators would compare slugs retrieved from the Wednesday shooting with those found after the killing of businessman Leonardo Umale at the Ortigas Center on March 17.

"We are cross-matching the slugs recovered from the crime scenes to determine if the cartridges in both incidents match. That's standard operating procedure, because you would see that both were planned, both may have involved hired assassins," said the district chief.

Marasigan's wife earlier told reporters that she was considering many possibilities, but could not formulate a theory yet.

She said her husband received death threats recently and had been tailed by suspicious-looking men in a car.

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FRIAS, Cherrie Q.; FRIVALDO, Florence D.; FRONDOZO, Cherry V.; FUENTES, Eric P.; FUMAR, Norman O.; GABAEN, Kissack B.; GABATINO, Eric C.; GABRIEL, JR., Jose S.; GACHE, Mary-joy J.; GAINZA, Janalyn B.; GALACGAC, Eigee V.; GALDO, Marrietta T.; GALIAS, Linus T.; GALICTO, Jelbert B.; GALLEGO, Darry T.; GAMBOA, Abigail Joy D.; GAMBOA, Ma. Angelica M.; GAMMAD, Joel C.; GANDEZA, JR., Conrado B.; GARANGAN, Alexandro N.; GARAYGAY, III, Ismael R.; GARCES, Orbill B.; GARCES-ITAAS, Pinky H.; GARCIA, Aison Alejandro S.; GARCIA, Maria Cristina B.; GARCIA, Michael La Torre.; GARCIA, Xerxes U.; GARCIA, JR., Wilfredo T.; GARCIMO, Crispin S.; GAREN, Dominic A.; GARGOLES, Nelson S.; GARIANDO, Jeremy H.; GARVIDA, Eric T.; GASCON, Fhymore G.; GASCON, JR., Basilio D.; GASPAR, Francis Rey F.; GAURANO, Julius Caesar J.; GAYAPA, Sue S.; GAYOS, Ana Marietta C.; GELLADA, Patrick Lloyd D.; GENOVA, Leo Y.; GEROY, Rogelio B.; GERVACIO, Gladys V.; GERVACIO, Hubert V.; GERVACIO, Rommel Ace M.; GIGANTE, Kathleen B.; GIRONELLA, Joanne C.; GO, Jennelyn F.; GO, Mahleene G.; GO, Samuel D.; GO, Serene A.; GO, Walter Robin C.; GOBOY, Anne Sharlyne M.; GODORNES, Alex Dave A.; GOGOLIN, Warlito DM.; GOLEZ-UY, Karenina N.; GOMEZ, Fricia C.; GONZAGA, Berna Gift C.; GONZAGA, Jihan Gift C.; GONZAGA, Karen R.; GONZALBO, Stephen D.; GONZALES, Kathlene G.; GONZALES, Luisa R.; GONZALES, Maria Aurora N.; GONZALES, Mylen B.; GONZALES, Ruby R.; GONZALEZ, Karen L.; GOPELA, Ralph Ernest M.; GORGONIO, Rey A.; GORME-AMORA, Mayumi M.; GOZON, JR., Felipe Enrique M.; GRAGEDA, Evan Ma. L.; GRAPILON, Karen Q.; GRECIA, Maria Christina L.; GREGORIO, Bernard S.; GREGORIO, Ma. Rhea M.; GRETARE, Noel A.; GRIMALDO, Josephine A.; GROSPE, Jennifer A.; GUBATAN, Gerald Z.; GUERRERO, Justine Adrienne A.; GUERRERO, Louie T.; GUERRERO, Maria Cecilia H.; GUERRERO-DELOS SANTOS, Arle Azela M.; GUEVARRA, Joseph P.; GUIBONE, Jose B.; GUIEB, Khan Francis C.; GUILLERMO, Romeo G.; GUINID, Ruth Joy L.; GUMASING, Jay F.; GUMBAN, Ida Marie T.; GUMOP-AS-TIROL, Jessica G.; GUNDA, Reymund B.;

## H, I, J, K

HACHUELA, Mateo C.; HECHANOVA, Rutchel G.; HEREZO-DELOS SANTOS, Emelly G.; HERMANO, Goldie Liza C.; HERNAEZ-YULO, Gail E.; HERNANDEZ, Christopher R.; HERNANDEZ, Felipe C.; HERNANDEZ, Mar Joseph M.; HERNANDEZ, Rodel O.; HERRERA, Dherlee D.; HERRERA, Mary Ann S.; HIDALGO, Gil Felix A.; HIDALGO-GARCILLANO, Cecille M.; HILARIO, Larribert T.; HIYAS, Ireneo A.; HO, Arlen G.; HUSSIN, Carl Fitri A.; IBARRA, Monaliza B.; IBARRA, Patricia Virginia G.; IBAÑEZ, Jaime O.; IBAÑEZ, Mayla Fermina A.; ICAO, Alex Andrew P.; IGNACIO, Grace P.; IGNACIO-GUTIERREZ, Iris S.; IGOT, Gaysel Antonette S.; ILIMIN, Husnaira C.; INDUCIL, Christopher M.; INFANTE, Joy R.; INOPIQUEZ, Van Russel L.; INVENTADO, Ronilo R.; IQUIÑA, Richard I.; ISIDTO, Collin Derk Y.; ISMAEL, Aquil P.; ISMAEL, Sherilyn F.; ITE, Analiza C.; JABOLI, Rachel P.; JACINTO, Maria Ana Camila C.; JADRAQUE, Hyacinth T.; JALAD, Simon Peter S.; JAMIAS-GARCIA, Jamie-lyn D.; JAMINOLA, Antonio Jonathan G.; JAMORA, Gerardine A.; JANABAN, Chito C.; JAO, Neil B.; JAPOS, Leah C.; JARO, Rhea A.; JAUCULAN, Andrew C.; JAVELOSA, Francis Anthony G.; JAVELOSA, JR., Alexis K.; JAVIER, Benedicto T.; JAVIER, Sheryll C.; JIMENEZ, Maria Karla P.; JIMENO, Karen Olivia V.; JIZ, Marie Karen C.; JOSE, Ismael M.; JOSE, Lizzette S.; JOSON, Joseph Aber P.; JUAN, Ferdinand C.; JUAN-BARRAMEDA, Anna Liza R.; JUICO, Ida A.; JULIANO, Ma. Lourdes Romelli D.; JUMAWAN, Paul A.; KABIGTING, Anna Katrina C.; KADON, Allan C.; KALAW, Ritchie Evans L.; KAW, Eugene T.; KHAW, Jonas S.; KHO, Eugene P.; KILAYKO, Maria Celsa Corina L.; KO, Ada Mae Y.; KONG, David Oliver C.; KWONG, Melissa R.;

## L, M

LABAGUIS, Lorie-ann S.; LABAO, Jesson G.; LABORDO, Joedel F.; LACDAO, Cesar B.; LACSAMANA-KING, Glenda M.; LACSON, Stephen Michael H.; LAGAHIT, Al M.; LAGAMON, Sabrina B.; LAGAN, Emily B.; LAGASCA, Rowena K.; LAGUA, Vina B.; LAGURA, Vincent Barry A.; LAMANILAO, Roco T.; LAMATON, Ma. Yvalonne B.; LANDAZABAL, Kristine K.; LANUZA, Leomar R.; LAO, Charlynn T.; LAO, Katrina Marie G.; LAO, Simon V.; LAPITAN, Hiyasmin H.; LAQUI, Marita Iris B.; LARA, Chonita S.; LARA, Rose Joycelyn B.; LARENA, Carolyn G.; LARGA, Jonathan J.; LASAM, JR., Manuel Inocencio L.; LASCANO, Caron Aicitel E.; LATONIO, Myra H.; LAURINO, Rotsie V.; LAVIDES, Bimbo D.; LAVITORIA, Marie Hazel E.; LAWAS, Jose Wayne C.; LAWILAO, Froilan Roger C.; LAYDA, William Victor L.; LAZARO, Dorothea C.; LAZO-FAVIS, Roselle Antonette P.; LEAÑO, Amenda L.; LEAÑO, II, Nepomuceno A.; LEGASPI, Jaydee Justine B.; LEGASPINA, Edwaldo L.; LEONES, Jonas R.; LEY, Gina B.; LIBIRAN, Christian Dave S.; LICEN, Mauro M.; LIGOT, Aileen T.; LILAGAN, Ma. Severina V.; LIM, Alissa Ann T.; LIM, Aureo Cyrus C.; LIM, John Anthony L.; LIM, Kelly Y.; LIM, Ma. Constancia C.; LIM, Paul Lawrence S.; LINA, Janelyn A.; LINDO, Sherwin Marc A.; LIONG, JR., Florencio M.; LIWAG, Grollen Mar M.; LIZARDO, III, Victor C.; LLEGO, Kit Laurel C.; LLOBRERA, Mildred G.; LOCK, Jonathan Honorato D.; LOILO, Clara Lina G.; LOMBOY, Emmy Lou A.; LONGBOAN, Dael A.; LOPEZ, Adrian Kevin C.; LOPEZ, Charisma V.; LOR, Rey R.; LORENA, Lilibeth C.; LORENZO, Ramon B.; LOSARIA, Prince S.; LOZANO, Nancy G.; LU, Sharon S.; LUCBAN, Hubert Y.; LUCERO, Angelique S.; LUCERO, Armida C.; LUCERO, Floralil B.; LUCERO, Kareen L.; LUCILA, Tamsin Rae N.; LUEGO, Jennifer S.; LUMAGUI, JR., Romeo D.; LUMANGTAD, Ulysses P.; LUNA, Brenda R.; LUNA, Emmanuel E.; LUNA, Reiner C.; LUNGAY-REYES, Ethelisa P.; MAAGAD, Hilarion Jonathan G.; MABALE, Howell Rex C.; MABUTI, Baisy R.; MACAGAAN, Abdullah D.; MACALANDAP, Aminoden L.; MACAPAAR, Omar M.; MACAPUGAS, Clemente B.; MACARAIG, Melody S.; MACARANAS, Christine P.; MADAMBA, Rogelio F.; MADERAZO, Jane Dee V.; MADRID, Simeon Angelo S.; MADRID-SONGGADAN, Marjury A.; MADRONA, JR., Severo C.; MADULA, Ma. Lourdes T.; MAGALE, Wilson A.; MAGALLANES, Ferdinand Thomas D.; MAGBOO, Mariane L.; MAGLUNSOD, Noreen C.; MAGNO-SALOMEO, Desiree S.; MAGSAYO, April Joy B.; MAGSICO, JR., Quintin O.; MAH, Dug Christoper B.; MAHINAY, Rochelle D.; MAHUSAY, Gerardo V.; MALANG, Melvin M.; MALATE, Flora V.; MALAYA, Douglas C.; MALCAMPO, Rex S.; MALICDEM, Mc Donald B.; MALIG, Rollyn G.; MALLARI, Maria Margarita DG.; MALLILLIN, Salvador C.; MALOLES, Raquel M.; MALUNES, Ariel I.; MAMARIL, Marni Benjamin V.; MANAOG, Joy Z.; MANAOG-DELA CRUZ, Liza R.; MANARES, Lee T.; MANCERA, Ryan D.; MANDANTES, Dario M.; MANDIIT, Eric L.; MANGALINDAN, Analy M.; MANGILIMAN, Michael C.; MANIGBAS, Irene C.; MANILA, Richard L.; MANINGAS, Ma. Julpha P.; MANLANGIT, Cielo M.; MANTARING-BAGASBAS, Marie Maureen G.; MANTUANO, II, Enrico P.; MANUEL, Rochelle S.; MANUEL, III, Venancio C.; MAOG, Duke Thaddeus R.; MAPALA, David A.; MARALLAG-CAJUCOM, Ma. Elena T.; MARAMAG, Gary Jay R.; MARAMBA, Karen C.; MARANAN, Roy A.; MARASIGAN, Allan Sly M.; MARASIGAN, Gil R.; MARATAS, June I.; MARCELLANA, Joey M.; MARCO, Deonah L.; MARCOS, Jetron Mike C.; MARIGOMEN, Dominic Ian S.; MARIMLA, Almario D.; MAROHOMBSAR, Laguindab A.; MARQUEZ, Joel R.; MARTE, Maria Cinderella M.; MARTELINO, Raymund G.; MARTIN, John Paul A.; MARTIN, Maria Loretta R.; MARTIN, Maricris C.; MARTIN, Marilyn M.; MARTINEZ, Rodolfo P.; MARTINEZ, Rommel Lloyd P.; MARTINEZ, JR., Jose F.; MARTINEZ, JR., Ricardo T.; MASANCAY, Geoffry D.; MASANGKAY, Marvin V.; MASANGKAY, Mylene D.; MASANGQUE, Shiela Cindy DC.; MASCARDO, Charmaine B.; MASIGAN, Roviel V.; MASIGLA, Maria Josefina B.; MASUKAT, Yasmin Soraya A.; MATA, Oscar P.; MATEO, Ricardo G.; MATEO, Torina Grace R.; MATES, Jonalyn A.; MATUTE-DINEROS, Maria Rica N.; MAULEON, Mario M.; MAZO, JR., Jose N.; MAÑACOP, Joel A.; MEDINA, Jessie C.; MEDINA-GO, Imelda Rose O.; MEJIA, Jason R.; MEJIA, Paul Michael T.; MELLANA, Maria Cristina P.; MENDIETA, Arnaldo C.; MENDIOLA, Frances Liaa C.; MENDIOLA, Michelle P.; MENDOZA, Christian Paul C.; MENDOZA, Dennis A.; MENDOZA, Hilda P.; MENDOZA, Raymond Paolo V.; MENDOZA, Raymund Joseph Ian O.; MENDOZA, Rosa Alia S.; MENGULLO, Jonathan A.; MERCADER, Amcel L.; MERCADO, Ma. Consolacion C.; MERCADO, Melisa I.; MERCED, Shellah Yzanne P.; MERIOLES, JR., Osias M.; MESUELO, Catherine C.; METMUG, Abdul-azis U.; MIGUEL, Michael Frank V.; MIMBALA, Amina B.; MIRANDA, Frances Joanne D.; MIRANDILLA, Arles B.; MIRANO, Pinky H.; MIRO, JR., Wenceslao A.; MISA-TAN, Maricar O.; MISLANG, Rhett Roswell F.; MITMUG, Alexander B.; MOGAO, JR., Leon P.; MONTALLANA, Corleone Fontane O.; MONTANCES, Rose Lynn D.; MONTES, Jeanne Rouselda T.; MONZON, Braniel Iluminado T.; MORALES, Mary Anne V.; MORAÑA, Noreliza R.; MORENO, Lennie Y.; MORENO, Rodrigo G.; MORTEL, Glenn M.; MOSQUITO, Alemar I.; MOSTAJO, Josel N.; MOYA-MANUEL, Melody O.; MUJER, Milabel R.; MUNSAYAC, Reynold S.; MUÑOZ, Marie Michelle D.;

## N, O

NACHURA, JR., Antonio Eduardo S.; NAGRAMPA, Rosary C.; NAIMES, Gina D.; NALZARO-COSTELO, Almalyn O.; NAME, Angelita R.; NAMQUI, Sherilyne S.; NANQUIL, Clarence Rommel C.; NANTES, Edna B.; NAONG, Clyde R.; NAPE, Archangel B.; NAPULI, Glenn B.; NARVAEZ, Evangeline L.; NAVARRETE, Joseph Marion P.; NAVARRO, Alvin M.; NAVARRO, Michael Agustin C.; NAVARRO-SIAZON, Myra Victoria C.; NAZARENO, Jomini C.; NEBAB, Gladys Evette G.; NEPOMUCENO, Natalia G.; NERIZON, Noel R.; NERVES, Rex Q.; NG, Christine T.; NGO, Chudney G.; NICOLAS, Krisanto Karlo E.; NIEVES, Francis D.; NOVELA, Leonora P.; NUEVA, Marie Lou L.; OBCIANA, Portia A.; OBELIDOR, Cyril T.; OBIENA, Edelita; OBIETA, Gretchen C.; OCHOCO, Abel O.; OCTAVIO, Jodybonne G.; ODANGO, Maria Mercedes E.; ODI, Katrina Nina C.; ODIEM, Dave Q.; OGSIMER, Chester P.; OGUIS, Alfred Yann G.; OLAER, Elaine G.; OLARTE, Emily B.; OLIVA, Jesus P.; OMBAO, Rozaire G.; ONG, Johnson A. H..; ONG, Marita Ann U.; ONG PE, Vanessa Joy B.; ONGAYO, Romelia J.; ONIA, JR., Irineo R.; OPINA, Suelyn P.; OPIÑA, Leif Laiglon A.; ORCULLO, Buena Kristine M.; ORENDAIN, Rico A.; ORGANO, Maria Haidee Lourdes C.; ORIBELLO, Anne Paula V.; OROCIO-ISORENA, Claudine B.; ORQUILLAS, Nyassa N.; ORQUIOLA, Desiree Gertrude G.; ORTEGA, Melanie J.; ORTIZ, JR., Santiago L.;

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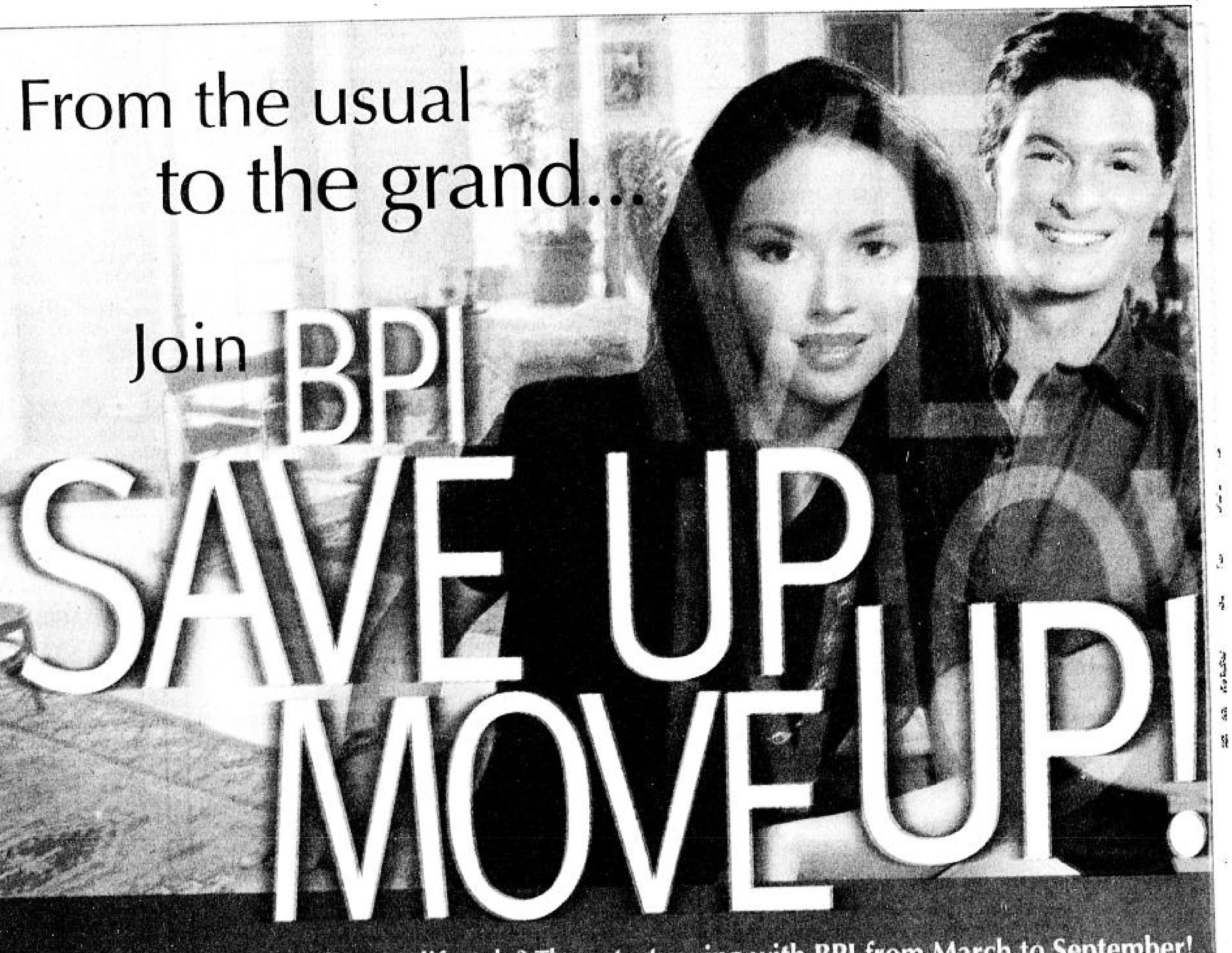

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PABILLARAN, Jay Warren R.; PABITON, Jose Marlon P.; PABLO, Golda J.; PACASUM, Jemima Anzorah M.; PACINABAO, Mae S.; PACIO, JR., Benjamin S.; PACLAR, Lynn Amor L.; PACLIBAR, Ritchie P.; PACURIB, Eva Fel C.; PADATE, Abol Alam A.; PADIE, Wilma R.; PADILLA, Maria Corina Q.; PADILLA-AWID, Ma. Victoria Q.; PADOLINA, Daisy G.; PADUA, Socrates A.; PAGADUAN, Arsenik B.; PAGALING, Sharon P.; PAGLINAWAN, Hermis B.; PAGTALUNAN, Philip V.; PAGTEILAN, John Paul S.; PAGUIRIGAN, Javier M.; PAGUIRIGAN, JR., Reynaldo A.; PAILAN, Ellan Mark G.; PAJARILLO, Michael Mortimer G.; PALAD, Emerson U.; PALAD, Pamela P.; PALAMINE, Palmer P.; PALANOG, Fatima Glenda C.; PALAY, Vanessa D.; PALISOC, Janice V.; PALISOC, Jessica P.; PALMA, Wilter Y.; PALMA GIL, Roberto Mauro Miguel T.; PALOMAR, Mark Jon S.; PAMITTAN, Joseph Manuel P.; PANGA, Fanella Joy B.; PANGAN, III, Rene Chester A.; PANGANIBAN, Emerson S.; PANGCOG-MENDOZA, Beverly Ann Corinne C.; PANGILINAN, Emilio C.; PANGILINAN, Glenn Christofferson L.; PANGILINAN-CANLAPAN, Christine V.; PANIS, Imelda A.; PANOLONG, Allan G.; PANTOJAN, Jonathan F.; PANTONI, Louie Alfred G.; PAQUIZ, Sharon Faith S.; PARANAS, Rossil O.; PAREDES, III, Ceferino Dino D.; PARES, Edman B.; PARGAS, Amiel Raymond O.; PARREÑO, Valerie V.; PASARABA, Odilon L.; PASCUAL, Alain O.; PASCUAL, Maria Antonia C.; PASCUAL, Neonette E.; PASILBAS, Johnness O.; PASILIAO, Nepthalie D.; PASTOR-QUADRA, Johneva L.; PATRON, Jessie M.; PATULOT-BESEDILLAS, Rosa B.; PAULO, Evalor C.; PAZ, Leila P.; PAÑARES, Marven B.; PE, Perly Anne A.; PEDRON, Isidro L.; PEEL, Rodelia Marie F.; PELAYO, Marie Josephine Angeli P.; PELAYO, Valerie Love V.; PERDICES, Jose Mari V.; PEREW-PEREW, Rex A.; PEREZ, Barbara E.; PEREZ, Jan Ralph Y.; PEREZ, Ma. Corazon S.; PEREZ, Neil Edwin C.; PEREZ, Reynold A.; PETATE, Cesar P.; PETRALBA, Myra Evelyn C.; PEÑA, Alec Anthony F.; PEÑALOSA, JR., Rodolfo A.; PEÑERA, Ma. Theresa A.; PIMENTEL, Michael P.; PIMENTEL, III, Ceasar G.; PINEDA, Zeromsky B.; PIOLLO, II, Arturo A.; PIOQUINTO, Kathyrin Fe D.; PLANDO, Roel A.; PLAZA, Winston L.; POBLETE, Aristotle T.; POLICARPO, Melody C.; POLISTICO-MANIBAY, Jenny Lyn M.; POLIWOS, JR., Jose M.; POLONAN, Mark Anthony R.; PONON, Gerard S.; PONTEVEDRA, Cheryl C.; PORTACIO, Nelson G.; PRADO, Eraño G.; PRADO, Wilhelmina I.; PREAGIDO, Ada G.; PRINCIPE, Princess B.; PUGONG, Jesselyn J.; PULMANO, Pamela Luz M.; PUNZALAN, Paulo B.; PURISIMA, Kristoffer James E.; PUSAG, Eden C.; PUYO, Giancarlo M.; QUENGBUEZA, Emilia R.; QUEZADA, JR., Maximo D.; QUIBAL, Ruberna B.; QUIJANO, Dax Matthew M.; QUILATON, Marlonissa N.; QUIMBA, Glenn P.; QUINTOS, Cheryll E.; QUITOLBO, JR., Rodolfo V.; QUIZON, Edmon R.; QUIÑONEZ, Jaybe D.; RAAGAS, Angelo M.; RABANES, Donn Frank C.; RABARA, Ma. Hazel L.; RABELAS, JR., Mart R.; RAGAS, Bruce N.; RALLANG, JR., Florendo M.; RAMA, Ravena Joy L.; RAMIREZ, Maria Rica C.; RAMIREZ, Mary Johna A.; RAMOS, Ana Marie A.; RAMOS, Ian Esteban C.; RAMOS, Jims Dandy G.; RAMOS, Joan Farah P.; RAMOS, Junard N.; RANADA, Philip Miguel I.; RANARIO, Rosario B.; RAPADAS, Josephine DG.; RARA, JR., Marcelo S.; RARANG, Rosanne D.; RAROQUE, Steven C.; RAVELO, Jeffrey L.; RAYCO, Bartolome R.; RAYMUNDO, Leslie Monica G.; RAZO, Llorene Grace T.; RAZON, Maria Razelli M.; RAÑON, Elmer B.; REBADULLA, Kate U.; REBATO, Maria Karen B.; REJUSO, Charo V.; RELOVA, Patricia Blaise T.; RENOMERON, Herbert D.; RENORIA, Enrique J.; RESPICIO, Maria Lourdes P.; REY MATIAS, Aurora V.; REYES, Elaine Patricia S.; REYES, Grace Veronica C.; REYES, Hazel D.; REYES, Juan Emmanuel M.; REYES, Katherine S.; REYES, Kathrina Maria A.; REYES, Ryan Rey D.; REYES, Sherwin V.; REYSIO-CRUZ, Michael Paul G.; RIBAYA-GERONIMO, Filipina T.; RICAFORT, Dexter M.; RICAFORT, Dulce M.; RIOLA, Ingrid Anne G.; RIPALDA, Estefanie P.; RITO, Michael Angelo S.; RITURBAN, Aaron Roi B.; RIVERA, Anne Perpetual S.; RIVERA, Bruce V.; RIVERA, Richel Remegio; RIVERA, JR., Prisco S.; RIVERA-GILERA, Maria Victoria C.; RIVERO, JR., Raymundo E.; ROA, Kristie Lynn R.; ROBIÑOS, Ryan Scott F.; ROBLEDO, Roderick P.; ROBLES, Maotse AJ.; RODOLFO, John Boomsri S.; RODRIGUEZ, Josyli T.; ROLDAN, Noremiel M.; ROMERO, Omar Alexander V.; ROSACAY, Virgilio L.; ROSALES, Aimee C.; ROSALES, Jennifer B.; ROXAS, Ronila C.; ROYULADA, JR., Teofilo J.; RUBIO, Ligaya S.; RUBIO, JR., Arturo V.;

### S

SAAVEDRA, Jose Genesis S.; SABALDAN, Bresilo R.; SABELLANO, Geraldine P.; SABILE-DAVID, Elaiza S.; SABLAN, Claire C.; SABLON, Johara Irene B.; SABOG, Neilson B.; SACDALAN, Rina S.; SADSAD, Gerardo A.; SALANGA, Dominador A.; SALDAJENO, Felix A.; SALES, Jasper C.; SALES, Sharon May P.; SALIGANAN, Sheilamar E.; SALUDARIO, Deo D.; SALVADOR, Julie Mae D.; SALVATIERRA, Ma. Cristina P.; SALVOSA, Jose C.; SAMODIO, Wyrlou E.; SAMONTE-SAPLALA, Czarina E.; SAMPAYO, Amelthon F.; SAMSON, Andrei C.; SAMSON, Desiree Lourdes R.; SAN BUENAVENTURA, Michelle B.; SAN DIEGO, Trina B.; SAN JUAN, Anna Lyne P.; SANCHEZ, Dominico A.; SANCHEZ, Norina Aileen C.; SANCHEZ, Ruth C.; SANDEL, Erickson A.; SANGALANG, Paul Michael G.; SANTIAGO, Angelo L.; SANTIAGO, Beverly L.; SANTIAGO, Karen O.; SANTIAGO, Manuel P.; SANTIAGO, Nancy M.; SANTILLAN, Adelbert S.; SANTIZO, Ruel R.; SANTOS, Ann Kathreene M.; SANTOS, Joelynn Marie H.; SANTOS, Jonas Emanuel S.; SANTOS, Leigh Vhon G.; SANTOS, Ma. Rhea M.; SANTOS, Van Brian S.; SANTOS, JR., Gloria D.; SAQUING, Aileen N.; SARIL, Andrei Norman G.; SARIP, Basset M.; SAWADJAAN, JR., Abdussabor B.; SEARES, Lynn V.; SEGARRA, Garry S.; SELDA, Enrique C.; SERASPI, Butch B.; SERAZON, Maureen Zena O.; SERRANO, Abigail Hope T.; SERRANO, Randy G.; SERRANO, Ronald S.; SESE, Abigail D.; SEÑIRES, Leo L.; SHAKRAMY, Sherwin E.; SIAO, Dominic W.; SIBUGAN, Rachel Anne T.; SIBULO, Julie Ann O.; SIERRA, Charles R.; SIMBAHAN, Rowena M.; SINDAYEN, Lilybeth T.; SINDO, Ronald Allan B.; SIPIN, Edward S.; SITCHON, Ma. Patricia R.; SOLANGON, JR., Eduardo C.; SOLANOY, Jeovert Lesmes S.; SOLENG, JR., Eduardo V.; SOLIBAGA, JR., Adelito M.; SOLONIO, JR., Augusto T.; SORBITO, IV, Silverio E.; SORIA, Ethel D.; SORIANO, Andrew R.; SORITA, Christian H.; SOTTO, JR., Ernesto R.; SU, Anna Liza L.; SUALOG, Cyrus Victor T.; SUAN, Daylinda R.; SUAN, Maria Laureen D.; SUAREZ, Kristine Grace L.; SUAREZ, Melvin C.; SUGALAN-MONTALLANA, Maria Corazon O.; SULIT, Nhea Victoria M.; SUMANTING, Roxenne L.; SUMBI, Leonides B.; SUNIO, Michael T.; SUSON, Ed Antonio G.; SUSUSCO, Raymiejella R.; SY, Anna Katrina S.; SY, Frederick Howard L.; SY-DEL-PRADO, Joanne P.; SYTAT, Mary Jane W.; SYTU, Herbert Alvin K.;

### T

TABDI, Elnora A.; TABION, Gabriel S.; TABLANTE, Tristan Jason Q.; TABLIZO, Nicole A.; TABOTABO, Learson O.; TACORDA, Kareen T.; TAER, Rodulfo Enrique C.; TAEZA, Marife S.; TAGAO, Shirley M.; TAGUINES, Azee A.; TAGUINOD, Jodaline L.; TAGUPA, May Hazel M.; TAJONERA, Ian C.; TALABONG, Donabella C.; TALATALA, Bingle B.; TAM, Maria Rosario S.; TAMAYO, Donn C.; TAMOLANG, JR., Teofilo Gala V.; TAN, Christopher Ryan T.; TAN, Joel A.; TAN, Kerwin K.; TAN, Luis Cayetano S.; TAN, Lynnart Walford A.; TAN, Maria Pilar Concepcion G.; TAN, Oscar Franklin B.; TANDOG, Sylvie Blanche F.; TANQUILUT, Sheryl May B.; TAPIA, Josephina Nance L.; TARO, Marianne A.; TATEL, May T.; TAULI, Marlon K.; TAWAGON, Sittie Maimona Azisa G. L.; TAYAG, Annalyn C.; TAYAG, Carlos Martin M.; TAYAG, Norman Gerardo O.; TAYKO, Jo Anne O.; TAYO, Siegfried S.; TE, Doris S.; TEAÑO, Jordan J.; TEJADA, Clarisa V.; TEJANO, Ma. Janice R.; TELAN, Mario Pocholo M.; TEMONES, Allan P.; TEMPROSA, Erwin A.; TENA, Ferdinand M.; TENEBRO, Tristram C.; TENEDERO, Ruben M.; TENG, Jason C.; TENG, Jayne Marie C.; TESORO, Mhelygene D.; TESTON, Paolo S.; TIBON, Ma. Michelle P.; TICOY, Ronelito O.; TIEMPO, Anecito E.; TIMAJO, Dennis M.; TINIO, Roselyn M.; TIONGSON, Donna Mae B.; TIROL, Armand D.; TIU, Angelita T.; TIU, Jennifer A.; TOBES, Tristan C.; TOBIAS, Barry Neil N.; TOL, Mary Angeline S.; TOLEDANES, Diosfa C.; TOLENTINO, Evelia M.; TOLENTINO, Melgabar M.; TOMAS, JR., Reynaldo P.; TOMBOC, Marivy P.; TOMELDEN, Victoria T.; TOMINES, John Rey A.; TORIBIO, Carlou Mae W.; TORRECAMPO, Rey C.; TORRECARION, Joy Randolf N.; TORRES, Aida M.; TORRES, Maricar D.; TORRES, JR., Rogelio D.; TRAYVILLA, Ruby Ann P.; TRESVALLES, Anthony Noel C.; TUALLA, Nyerson Dexter Tito Q.; TUANQUIN, Omar Ian R.; TULIAO, Francis H.; TUMALAD, Alwin M.; TUMAMAK, Maricris S.; TURA, Alex D.; TURLA, Aileen O.; TY, Ricky G.;

### U, V, W

ULIC, Michael P.; ULTADO, JR., Roberto B.; UNICO, Ma. Perpetua B.; UNIRA-OREJAS, Juanita A.; URREA, Roderick I.; URSUA, JR., Antonio M.; UTULO, Edelmar M.; UY, Allan Q.; UY, Ian Joseph Z.; UY, Janet B.; UY, Marie Angeli P.; UY, Randolph S.; UY-MARPURI, Ma. Milagros G.; VALDEZ, Phoebe S.; VALDEZ, Vanessa P.; VALENCIA, Karen Joy H.; VALENCIANO, Rhodex P.; VALENTON, Cinderella Y.; VALERO, Angel Chona Grace I.; VALEROSO-GOMEZ, Ruby B.; VALONES, Irene D.; VARGAS, Jorge E.; VASQUEZ, Chevin Q.; VASQUEZ, Dorothy D.; VEGA, Randee R.; VELARDE, Melissa Angela G.; VELASCO, Jan Kendrick Z.; VELICARIA, Genevieve E.; VENTAYEN, George F.; VENTURA, III, Geronimo I.; VENTURANZA, II, Cayo F.; VERA CRUZ, John Christopher P.; VERA, JR., Emmanuel Anthony L.; VERGARA, Maria Delia T.; VERSOZA, Rosemarie O.; VICEDO, Veronica V.; VIDAL, Giovanni E.; VILLA, Cherie Lyn M.; VILLA, Edwin R.; VILLALBA, Benedict Byron C.; VILLALON, Joel L.; VILLANUEVA, Christianne Adoraine T.; VILLANUEVA, Jayrous L.; VILLANUEVA, Marcus Aurelius C.; VILLANUEVA, Marlon P.; VILLANUEVA, Noel M.; VILLANUEVA, Noime A.; VILLANUEVA, Quennie Marie C.; VILLARIN, Dave L.; VILLARUBIA, Leah P.; VILLARUEL, Dax B.; VILLARUEL, III, Hardee B.; VILLASIS, Anthony E.; VILLASOR, John Paolo Roberto Lino A.; VILLEGAS, Avelina J.; VILLEGAS, Hazel F.; VILLONES, Renato I.; VITUG, Jessica R.; VIUDEZ, Emerson M.; VIVAR, Arnel O.; VIVERO, JR., Inocencio R.; VIZCO-ADRIANO, Marilen S.; VIÑAS, Robinson C.; WAHAB, Leah C.; WANDAG, Kristian B.;

### Y, Z

YAMSUAN, Glennaries M.; YAOKASIN, JR., Henry L.; YAP, Marlon I.; YAP, II, Sergio E.; YAP-EVANGELISTA, Jane T.; YEBES, Joy C.; YEE, Glenda J.; YODONG, Ada Gail A.; YODONG, Perry Ross T.; YUMOL, Dolores L.; ZAMORA, Nerissa Rhona V.; ZERRUDO, Clarence G.; ZIGA-GARCIA, Diane Valerie V.; ;

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*Republic of the Philippines*
**PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION**
Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City
Healthline 637-9999 www.philhealth.gov.ph

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
No. 2006-010-g

### BIDDING FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF PHILHEALTH OFFICIAL RECEIPT (SPECIALIZED OFFICIAL RECEIPT IN CONTINUOUS FORM)

The **Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth)**, through the Corporate Operating Budget (COB) 2006 intends to apply the sum of **PhP 6,400,000.00** being the approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Procurement of PhilHealth Official Receipt (Specialized Official Receipt in Continuous Form). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

PhilHealth now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the said procurement with the following specifications:

**JOB TITLE** : Printing of 4,000,000 sets of PhilHealth Official Receipt (Specialized Receipt in Continuous Form)
**QUANTITY** : 4,000,000 sets / 1,000 boxes
**SIZE** : Vertical Length : 5 inch
Horizontal Length : 8 inch
**MATERIAL** : Colored Carbon-less PaperImpression must be clear up to the last ply
1st Ply - White Carbon-less paper (Payor's Copy)
2nd ply - Green Carbon-less paper (Finance Office's Copy)
3rd Ply - Pink Carbon-less paper (Cashier's Copy)
One color print for text (Black)
**PROCESS** : Typeset/Offset
**Serial numbers** : Pre-numbered (8 digits)
All numeric (Crash Numbering)
4,000,000 sets (10500001 - 14500000)
**Packaging** : Serial Numbers must be posted on two (2) opposite sides of the box.
1,000 sets/box
**Others** : PhilHealth logo printed in UV ink at the center
Micro print "PhilHealth" on top of the word *(Amount in words)*
**Delivery** :

| Schedule of Delivery | *PhilHealth Official Receipt* | | | Delivery Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Sets | Boxes | Series Nos. (From - To) | |
| 1st | 2,000,000 | 2,000 | 10500001 - 12500000 | 15 days after notice to proceed |
| 2nd | 2,000,000 | 2,000 | 12500001 - 14500000 | 15 days after the first delivery |

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino Citizens/Sole Proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino Citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such after the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the **Office of the Secretariat for the Bids and Awards Committees (OSBAC)** in the Central Office of PhilHealth, Room 1107 11th floor Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd., Pasig City, and inspect the Bidding Documents from **8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

A complete set of Bidding Documents should be purchased by Interested Bidders from April 3 - 17, 2006 at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of **PhP 4,000.00** cash. The prospective Bidder or his authorized representative shall receive the Bidding Documents personally.

PhilHealth will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested parties on **April 18, 2006 at 10:30 a.m. at the OSBAC Conference Room** (Rm. 1106), PhilHealth Central Office, 11th floor Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd., Brgy. Oranbo, Pasig City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the **OSBAC Conference Room on or before May 2, 2006, 10:30 a.m.** The official time shall be based on the wall clock located at the **OSBAC Conference Room.** Late Bids shall not be accepted.

**Bid opening shall be on May 2, 2006, 10:30 a.m. at the OSBAC Conference Room.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

CY 2004 to CY 2005 is the relevant period for contracts which will be required to be submitted by PhilHealth.

PhilHealth reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Office of the Secretariat for the Bids and Awards Committees in the Central Office
**MR. JOSEPH O. VERGARA**
Rm. 1107, 11th Floor Citystate Centre
709 Shaw Blvd. Brgy. Oranbo, Pasig City
Tel. (02) 637-9999 locals 1128, 1130 and 1830
e-mail add: osbac@philhealth.gov.ph
Facsimile No. 637-4735
www.philhealth.gov.ph

**(Sgd.) Atty. VALENTIN C. GUANIO**
*Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee for Goods and Services*

(PDI–March 31 & April 7, 2006)

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**PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY**

**PORT DISTRICT OFFICE OF VISAYAS**
CIP COMPLEX, SERGING OSMEÑA BLVD., NORTH RECLAMATION AREA,
CEBU CITY, PHILIPPINES
TEL. NO. (032) 232-3401 TO 04, FAX NO. (032) 232-1990
email: pdavisayas@ppavis.com website: www.ppavis.com

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY, Port District Office – Visayas,** through its Bids and Awards Committee – Engineering Project (BAC-EP), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

**A:**
Name of Contract : **Improvement of Basiao Port**
Location : Basiao, Ivisan, Capiz
Major Items of Work : 1.) Reclamation (2,240.0 sq.m.)
2.) Concrete Pavement (2,240.0 sq.m.)
3.) Construction of Open Shed (10.0 m x 20.0 m)
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : P 14,897,262.40
Source of Funds : PPA Corporate Fund
Contract Duration : One Hundred Forty Five **(145)** Calendar Days
PCAB Registration : **Medium A "Port & Offshore Engineering"**
**Required Equipments :**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1) | 1 unit | : | Bar Bender | - Owned |
| 2) | 1 unit | : | Bar Cutter | - Owned |
| 3) | 2 units | : | One Bagger Concrete Mixer | - Owned |
| 4) | 2 units | : | Concrete Vibrator | - Owned |
| 5) | 1 unit | : | Electric Drill (500W) | - Owned |
| 6) | 2 units | : | Dump Truck (10T) | - Owned/Leased |
| 7) | 1 unit | : | Backhoe (0.60 cu.m.) | - Owned/Leased |
| 8) | 1 unit | : | Drop Hammer (2T) | - Owned/Leased |
| 9) | 1 unit | : | Roller Compactor (Vibratory-10T) | - Owned/Leased |
| 10) | 1 unit | : | Truckmounted Crane (35T) | - Owned/Leased |
| 11) | 1 unit | : | Diesel Hammer (3.5T) | - Owned/Leased |

**B:**
Name of Contract : **Proposed Port Development Project**
Location : Vinisitahan, Dalupiri Island, Northern Samar
Major Items of Work : 1.) Const. of Causeway (6.0m x 66.0m)
2.) Const. of RC Pier (9.0m x 66.0m)
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : P 26,012,941.67
Source of Funds : PPA Corporate Fund
Contract Duration : Two Hundred Sixty **(260)** Calendar Days
PCAB Registration : **Medium A "Port & Offshore Engineering"**
**Required Equipments :**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1) | 1 unit | : | Bar Bender | - Owned |
| 2) | 2 units | : | Bar Cutter | - Owned |
| 3) | 2 units | : | One Bagger Concrete Mixer | - Owned |
| 4) | 2 units | : | Concrete Vibrator | - Owned |
| 5) | 1 unit | : | Welding Machine (150A) | - Owned |
| 6) | 1 unit | : | Backhoe (0.60 cu.m.) | - Owned/Leased |
| 7) | 1 unit | : | Boom Truck (5T) | - Owned/Leased |
| 8) | 1 unit | : | Plate Compactor | - Owned/Leased |
| 9) | 1 unit | : | Crane Barge (450 DWT) | - Owned/Leased |
| 10) | 1 unit | : | Truckmounted Crane (35T) | - Owned/Leased |
| 11) | 1 unit | : | Diesel Hammer (3.5T) | - Owned/Leased |
| 12) | 1 unit | : | Drop Hammer (2T) | - Owned/Leased |
| 13) | 1 unit | : | Jackhammer w/ Compressor (350 CFM) | - Owned/Leased |
| 14) | 1 unit | : | Road Grader/Dozer (125 HP) | - Owned/Leased |
| 15) | 1 unit | : | Road Roller (10T) | - Owned/Leased |
| 16) | 1 unit | : | Rock Grapple (2T) | - Owned/Leased |

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB license and registration particulars applicable to the type and cost of the contract to be bid, have key personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract, must have completed **50% for Major Items of Work** (indicated above) on contract/projects with similar in nature and complexity to the contract to be bid within the past **Five (5) years** immediately preceding the publication of this invitation; with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the other eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Statement. Applications for eligibility, as well as the preliminary examination of bids, will be evaluated on "pass/fail" criteria. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid. In accordance with the IRR-A of RA 9184, a contract will be awarded only to the lowest calculated and responsive bidder.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

| | BAC Activities | Schedule |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility | April 06 – 17, 2006 |
| 2. | Issuance of Eligibility Forms | April 06 – 24, 2006 |
| 3. | Receipt of Eligibility Requirements | May 1, 2006 |

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office – Visayas, CIP Complex, Serging Osmena Blvd., North Reclamation Area, Cebu City upon their submission of a LOI, photocopy of PCAB License and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of **P1,100.00** (inclusive of VAT) to the Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office – Visayas Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **P2,500.00** (inclusive of VAT) to the Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office – Visayas Cashier.

The Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office – Visayas reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to the award of contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Approved by:
**(Sgd.) JAMES J. GANTALAO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - March 24 & 31, 2006)

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PNOC
The Energy Company

**PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**
Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1200 Taguig City, Philippines
P.O. Box 2102 MCPO, Tel. Nos. 893-6001 to 47/893-1320 Fax No. 840-1575

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project.

**REPAINTING OF BUILDING FIVE EXTERIORS**
**EDC 06-040**

The Approved Budget is **PhP 1,625,000.00** chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is 45 calendar days.

Application forms for eligibility and the bidding documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group (c/o F.T. Tolibas local 5179) starting March 31, 2006 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Pesos: Five Hundred (PhP 500.00).**

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **April 7, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the BAC Conference Room, First Floor, Building V, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila. Site inspection will follow thereafter.

Application for eligibility and sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group, First Floor, Building V, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifaco, Taguig, Metro Manila **not later than 2:00 p.m. (Contracts Administration Group Office Wall Clock Time) of April 10, 2006** and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

**The Chairman**
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–March 31 & April 7, 2006)

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## ISABELA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela

## INVITATION TO BID, PARTICIPATE, PROPOSE AND TO QUALIFY

The Isabela II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ISELCO II) is inviting Security Agencies who are interested to propose, to participate and to qualify as Security Agency of the Cooperative on – April 10, 2006, 9:00 AM. Security Agencies must submit and satisfy the following documents and conditionalities listed herein below. Participating agencies must present all Original Copies of documents for authentication and photocopies for reference.

1. Letter of Intent
2. Company Profile bearing all these documents:
   a. DTI Certificate of Registration
   b. Mayor's Permit to Operate (2006)
   c. Tax Identification Number (TIN)
   d. VAT Certification
   e. PNP/SUSLA License to Operate
   f. PADPAO Membership Certificate
   g. Audited Financial Statement
   h. List of Licensed-Firearms (with bonded Official Receipt)
   i. List of present clientele
3. Clearances (issued year 2006)
   a. RTC Clearance (Civil & Criminal Cases)
   b. MTC Clearance (Civil & Criminal Cases)
   c. SAGSD Clearance (Camp Crame & Region 02)
   d. PADPAO Clearance (of no derogatory record)
   e. SSS Clearance (of no delinquent Record)
   f. DOLE Clearance (of no labor cases)
   g. BIR Clearance (of no delinquency record)
4. BIR/Income Tax Return with photocopies of official payment and certificate of Tax Withheld.
5. SSS Remittances (OBR,R-5 and R-S) January-December 2004, January-September 2005.
6. Photocopies of Seminars/Trainings attended
   a. Security Management
   b. Gun Safety & Responsible Gun Ownership
   c. Guard's Personality development

Base from the Annual Budget of the Cooperative, an amount of Ph.P 2,332,800.00 was appropriated for 33 guards. Security Guards must not be less than 21 and not more than 50 years of age.

**Bidding Fee of Ph.P 5,000.00 shall be paid on or before April 10, 2006.**

ISELCO II reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or informalities therein and accept only bid advantageous to the Cooperative.

**(Sgd.) ENRIQUE O. DE LEON**
General Manager

(PDI – March 31, 2006)

PEASANT ACTIVIST

# Blacklisted Bangladeshi barred from entering RP

**By Leila B. Salaverria**

A BANGLADESHI PEASANT LEADER WAS barred from entering the Philippines yesterday after his name popped up in the Bureau of Immigration blacklist for participating in a rally critical of the administration last year.

Badrul Alam, chair of the farmer's group Bangladesh Krishok Federation and a vice chair of the Asian Peasant Coalition, was turned back aboard a Cathay Pacific flight three hours after arriving at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport at 11:45 a.m.

Alam came to the country to attend a conference on food sovereignty sponsored by the Asia Pacific Research Network, an international grouping of peasant advocates. The conference is being held from March 30 to April 3.

Ferdinand Sampol, Naia immigration chief, said Alam was deported because he was in the immigration blacklist for joining an October 2005 rally against the government.

"That was one of the violations of the conditions of his stay here as a tourist. That is a ground for being included in the blacklist. There is nothing illegal about (his deportation)," said Sampol in a phone interview.

Alam had joined thousands of anti-Arroyo protesters in a rally on Claro M. Recto Street in Manila. Several foreign delegates from the Asian Peasant Tribunal also participated in the mass action last year.

The militant group Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas condemned Alam's deportation.

"As far as the Filipino peasants are concerned, Badrul did not commit any crime against the Filipino farmers. The Filipino people and KMP salute Badrul and the farmers of Bangladesh for joining us in our struggle for land, truth and justice, unlike Ms Arroyo and her gang who are the real enemies of the Filipino peasantry," said KMP secretary general Danilo Ramos in a statement.

Ramos said Alam was not told the reason for his inclusion in the blacklist.

The KMP said it would ask peasant and related organizations in Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Thailand, Bangladesh, Nepal and other countries to register their condemnation of the "grossly immoral, inhuman and illegal deportation" of the Bangladeshi peasant leader with the Office of the President, the Department of Justice and the Bureau of Immigration.

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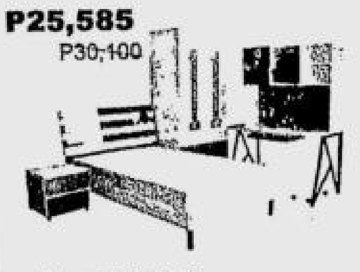
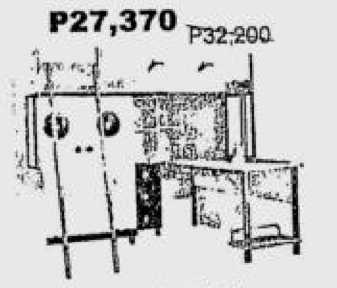

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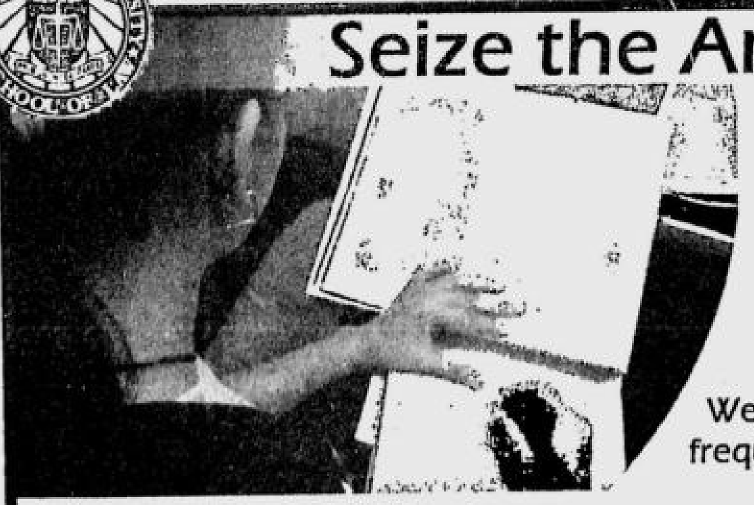

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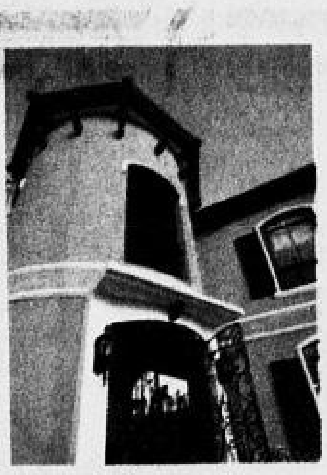

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# OPINION

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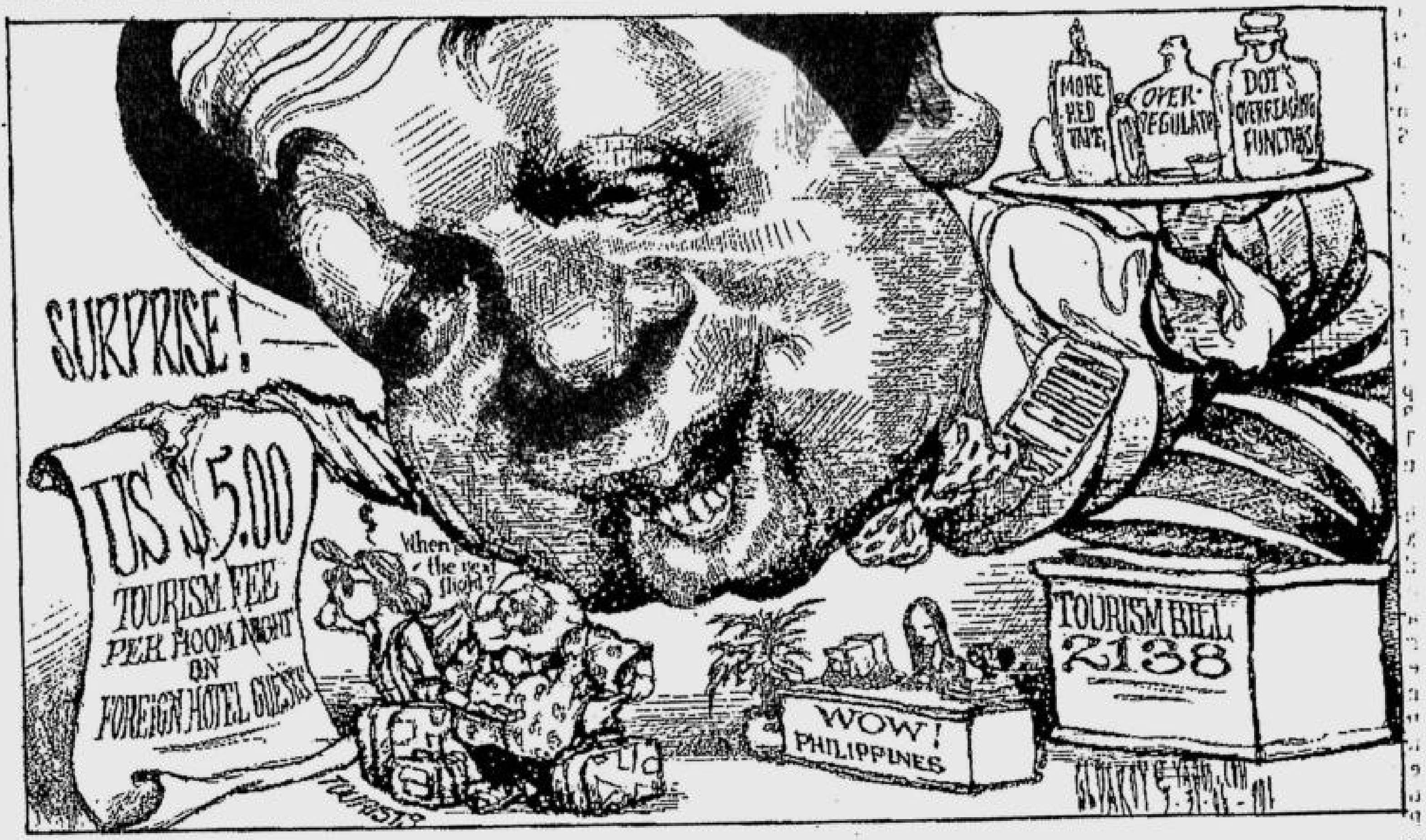

# Force of numbers

**EDITORIAL**

IF THERE IS ONE INSTITUTION THAT IS DEMONstrating unity in adversity, it's the Commission on Elections. Newly confirmed Comelec Commissioner Romeo Brawner has disowned a previous statement attributed to him. He was earlier reported to have told the Commission on Appointments that because of the Supreme Court's decision in Santiago vs. Comelec, any people's initiative petition should, in his opinion, be rejected outright. Around the time he was expressing that opinion, Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos was putting forward an altogether different view: There are millions of signatures? Then by all means let us validate them, regardless of whether or not the effort the signatures support is permitted or not. Hours later, Brawner said he agreed with Abalos and so now the Comelec is whole and indivisible again.

As Abalos put it, the campaign to gather signatures for a people's initiative to change the Constitution "may be a lost cause, but everyone has the right of expression." Brawner then rather belatedly noted that the Supreme Court's 1997 decision was not unanimous. "This opens the possibility of the Supreme Court reversing its decision and allowing the Comelec to entertain petitions for initiative," he said. We doubt if anyone expected Brawner to turn so quickly into a good and loyal soldier.

Abalos, however, is simply acting true to form. He has always been a good politician, which in these parts means that he has thrived in a profession in which finality is not part of the lingua franca. As the saying goes, you cannot teach an old dog new tricks.

Abalos and the Comelec already got into hot water by pushing through with an ill-fated attempt at automating vote-counting even in the face of a Supreme Court injunction against it. If he did so then, why then obviously, he can do so again. Precisely because in politics, nothing is final and everything is negotiable.

This might have made Abalos a politically adept mayor but it further underscores the folly of his appointment and the dangers that come from putting a politician in a job meant to keep other politicians from subverting the electoral process. What appears on the surface to be a well-meaning live-and-let live policy (count them, even if they may not matter and may even be patently illegal) becomes the first, and most crucial, battle in an effort to achieve constitutional change by any means necessary.

Leading a united Comelec, Abalos can then proceed to swiftly validate the signatures gathered by those proposing a people's initiative as a means of achieving Charter change. Then, equally, swiftly, the Comelec can say that a Supreme Court decision to the contrary notwithstanding, or even pending appeals for a reconsideration of the existing decision, a plebiscite might as well be scheduled.

The plebiscite will then be held, unless the Supreme Court issues a temporary restraining order halting it. But this the Court may or may not do. If it does, it simply places the effort in suspended animation until, as Solicitor General Eduardo Nachura so confidently predicts, the justices reverse the Court's previous ruling. If the Supreme Court doesn't issue a TRO, then a plebiscite can be held even as it ponders challenges to the exercise. The results can be announced, and pressure is on the Court to say the people have spoken and all previous challenges are therefore moot and academic.

The political flexibility of Abalos and the Comelec, for these reasons, should be a cause for unease among constitutionalists and those interested in preserving whatever is left of the integrity of our national institutions. The Comelec is making itself a party to the most ruthless and, in a sense, reckless assault on the concept of checks and balances. It is helping to isolate and make irrelevant the Supreme Court and its decisions. It is actively assisting a partisan political exercise. There is no clearer, and more glaring, example of the tyranny of numbers, than the so-called people's initiative that has received President Macapagal-Arroyo's blessing.

# This is the worst time for Charter change

**As I See It**

*Neal H. Cruz*

THERE ARE MANY REASONS WHY WE should not change our Constitution now. One is the motive of those who want to change it. President Macapagal-Arroyo wants to use it to cling to power. Speaker Jose de Venecia wants to be prime minister because he knows he will never be elected president. Former President Fidel V. Ramos wants to go back as chief executive through the prime ministership. The congressmen, governors and mayors want their terms extended. In short, their motives are selfish. Although they cite other reasons, it is clear to everybody that it is to benefit themselves that they want to change the Constitution. This is the worst reason to change it.

The framers of all our constitutions recognized the temptation of lawmakers to abuse their powers and pass laws that would benefit themselves. That is why there is a provision in the Charter that laws passed by Congress (such as increasing their salaries) cannot apply to them but become effective only after the election of a new set of legislators. Following the spirit of the Constitution, that should also apply to the writers of a new Charter. They should not benefit from the Charter that they themselves wrote.

Another reason that we should not change the Constitution at this time is the brazenness of the administration in using all means to achieve its ends. Bribery, in cash and in kind, is being used on everybody who would accept the bribes. A free three-year extension for local government officials, cash for barangay officials, jobs for relatives and friends of politicians, cash and food items to the poor herded to the barangay halls to sign the petition for a people's initiative.

There are three ways to amend the Constitution: a Constitutional Convention, a Constituent Assembly, and a People's Initiative. In the first, delegates to the convention would be elected to write the Charter. In the second, members of the Senate and House of Representatives would constitute themselves into an assembly and write the Constitution. In the third, the people themselves, through one-third of all the registered voters, can petition to amend certain provisions of the Charter.

Administration forces do not want a Constitutional Convention because they cannot be sure who would be elected delegates and therefore cannot control what they are going to write. They prefer a Constituent Assembly where pro-administration congressmen can dominate the proceedings, especially with De Venecia as Speaker who has the knack for persuading congressmen to do what he wants. But the Senate does not want to cooperate, and there can be no Constituent Assembly without a Senate.

De Venecia et al. argues that the Senate is not necessary because the House can get the two-thirds vote from among its members, and that the interpretation that the House and Senate should vote separately is wrong. But they themselves know that their own interpretation is the wrong one, so in desperation, they have turned to the last option—the people's initiative.

The trouble with this last option is that the Supreme Court has made it very clear in a previous case that there is no valid enabling law that would authorize a people's initiative. But the never-day-die advocates hope that because the voting in the first case was close, there is a chance that a new voting would reverse the decision.

Legal eagle Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, however, said that under the legal doctrine of "stare decisis," the Supreme Court should follow and uphold its decision in the first case, Santiago vs. Comelec, because "the facts in 1997 and 2006 are substantially the same."

"In 1997, there was no law providing for the procedure to change the Charter by means of a people's initiative," she added. "Up to now, there is no such law.

"Therefore, since the facts in 1997 and 2006 are substantially the same, then under the 'stare decisis' doctrine, the Supreme Court is obliged to follow the ruling in Santiago vs. Comelec."

But because the people's initiative is a desperation move, the administration went ahead with the gathering of the signatures. *Baka makalusot.* People were lured by politicians with bribes—in cash, in kind and with lies—and made to sign documents the contents of which they don't even understand.

'People's initiative' means the first move should come from the people themselves, but here, the initiative—in fact, the whole exercise—comes from politicians. It is not a 'people's initiative' but a 'politicians' initiative.' And that is one more reason why we should not change the Charter now—the method being used violates the spirit of the Constitution itself. If they can violate with impunity the Charter now, imagine what they will do once they get the chance to rewrite it. And if they can do what they are doing now under a bicameral government, imagine what they will do in a unicameral one, without a Senate to check the abuses of the House, and where the party in power controls the three branches of government. The prime minister and Cabinet members would come from members of Parliament—which would be composed, at least in the first three years, by the present rapacious congressmen without the Senate to check them—and the justices of the Supreme Court would also be chosen by them. Can you imagine the abuses they are capable of doing with a carte blanche like that?

By their present actions, the congressmen and other officials of the Arroyo administration are showing to us very clearly why we should all resist efforts to change our Constitution. Let us wait until the present crop of politicians are out of office.

# Constitutional brinkmanship

**Passion for Reason**

*Raul C. Pangalangan*

IN DECEMBER 2005, I WONDERED ALOUD IN this space: Why the spunk, why the audacity, of the so-called "people's initiative" to change the Constitution, when the Supreme Court has already twice rejected such attempts? My answer: because of the magic of the *fait accompli*.

Charter change proponents will ram through the signature gathering, present the Comelec with the requisite signatures, and say: Charter change is now initiated, so please call a plebiscite. From all appearances, that scenario is now emerging. The spokesman for President Fidel Ramos says: "If the Sigaw ng Bayan Coalition succeeds in raising the required minimum of 5.6 million signatures, the principle of vox populi, vox Dei will have to be considered."

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos says the Comelec will now verify the signatures and promises results in one month, a rather clear signal that the Comelec will go along with the *fait accompli*. After all, the plebiscite must be on the way before fresh impeachment proceedings against GMA roll in by June 2006, i.e., when the one-year bar on impeachment lapses, counting one year from Oliver Lozano's June 28, 2005 filing of his impeachment complaint.

The next stage of the battle then will be fought before the Supreme Court. Solicitor General-designate Eduardo Nachura, a constitutional law expert, has already announced, "I think it's time to ask the Supreme Court to revisit [the Pirma] ruling."

Revisit it then we must. The Constitution expressly says that direct initiative is "subject finally to implementing legislation by Congress," and the Supreme Court, in Defensor-Santiago v. Comelec (or the Pirma case), found the Initiative Law that was passed by Congress "incomplete, inadequate and wanting." Until now, no new Initiative Law has been enacted, and while the House of Representatives seems hell-bent on pushing it forward, the Senate is poised to block it. No go. That simple. End of story.

"Bluntly stated the right of [direct initiative] would remain entombed in the cold niche of the Constitution until Congress provides for its implementation." Reproduced verbatim is the Court's dispositif: "[T]he Comelec [is] permanently enjoined from entertaining or taking cognizance of any petition for initiative on amendments to the Constitution until a sufficient law shall have been validly enacted to provide for the implementation of the system." So how can Abalos now "take cognizance of any petition"?

But the solicitor general's optimism springs from a headcount of the sitting justices. Only Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban and Senior Associate Justice Reynato Puno remain from the original Pirma Court, and both had dissented from the majority ruling.

Indeed, the Court was not unanimous on the lack of enabling legislation. Panganiban concurred only in the result, and would throw out the initiative only because it did not carry the requisite signatures. He had reservations about the majority's "restrictive holding," saying it was "all too sweeping and all too extremist ... equivalent to ... killing the patient to relieve him of pain. [T]he misuse of initiative does not justify a ban against its proper use. Indeed, there is a right way to do the right thing at the right time and for the right reason."

Notice, however, that even if the dissenters win the day and say that the Initiative Law is adequate, there remains one real impediment: the people's initiative can be used only for minor "amendments," not for major "revisions." Congress or a constitutional convention can make either amendments or revisions, but a people's initiative may only propose amendments.

The drafting history of the Charter shows that they used this formula advisedly: "'Revision' may involve a rewriting of the whole Constitution. [A]mending a constitution envisages a change of specific provisions."

But I am really bothered by these headcounts. They ignore the normative quality of Supreme Court decisions. Judicial decisions rise and fall on the soundness of their reasoning and conclusions, and unless we assume that judicial appointments are custom-tailored to suit a certain approach or conclusion, changes in the personalities should not entail changes in constitutional norms.

Chief Justice Hilario Davide warned in Pirma about the Court "allowing itself to be used as a legitimizing tool for those who wish to perpetuate themselves in power," especially those who, in the words of Justice Santiago Kapunan, "cloak its adherents in sanctimonious populist garb." Benjamin Cardozo called the constitution a guarantee "against the assaults of opportunism, the expediency of the passing hour ... the derision of those who have no patience with general principles."

Therefore, the true defect of the current direct initiative does not lie in the doctrinal minutiae that lawyers get excited about—amendment versus revision, adequate for proposing laws but not for amending constitutions. The flaw of this people's initiative is that it does not belong to the people. It belongs to the Department of Interior and Local Government, which convened the barangay assemblies to discuss innocuous-sounding matters like "health, agriculture, education"—innocent, that is, until you get to the part "and current issues affecting the country," Orwellian lingo for Charter change. Where in the Constitution do we find "politicians' initiative"?

When the Court revisits the Pirma case, let it recall T.S. Eliot: "The end of all our exploring/ Will be to arrive where we started,/ And know the place for the first time."

* * *

*Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com*

# Two different crises

**ANALYSIS**

*Amando Doronila*

THAILAND IS THREE DAYS AWAY FROM A SNAP election called by Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra to seek a new mandate to blunt a widespread demand for his resignation. Reelected last year in a landslide victory that gave his Thai Rak Thai party 375 of 500 parliamentary seats, Thaksin's political fortunes took a drastic nosedive after his government was engulfed in a corruption scandal and accusations of abuse of power, mishandling the Muslim insurgency in the Southern Island and electoral fraud.

Just days before the election, Thailand was churned by turmoil in the streets, evoking images of people power in the Philippines reappearing in another democracy but with a different political culture. The other day, up to 50,000 demonstrators marched in Bangkok's central business district pressing their campaign for the ouster of Thaksin. The campaign, led by the People's Alliance for Democracy, has been able to bring impressive numbers of people to the streets of Bangkok and the protesters have camped around Thaksin's office, forcing him to call the snap election to defuse the demand for his resignation.

There are more dissimilarities than similarities in the crises engulfing Thaksin and President Macapagal-Arroyo, and to draw parallels between them is bound to lead to wrong lessons. This article limits itself to exploring how the Philippines and Thailand are trying to solve their political stalemates within their electoral systems. It also examines a few relevant aspects, among them, the mood of the Thai military with regard to the confrontation in the streets, and the possibility of intervention by the King of Thailand, and the different electoral moods in Bangkok and the Thai countryside. Neither the Arroyo administration nor the Philippine political opposition and the President's various enemies can draw any comfort from Thailand's coming election and events associated with the discontent with Thaksin.

First, the election. In the Philippines, regime opponents are still pounding the door with their demand for a snap election. We have not gone very far. Many obstacles, some legal and others related to the paucity of alternatives to replace Ms Arroyo, stand in the way. A snap election to resolve the Philippine impasse is not an immediate possibility.

In Thailand, no such obstacles had to be overcome by Thaksin. While defiantly refusing to bow to demands for his resignation, he deflected the pressure to the snap election which offers an opportunity for the Thai people to express their vote of confidence in Thaksin, given all the scandals swirling around him. Calling the election was a shrewd political move.

Opinion polls show Thaksin enjoying considerable support in the countryside, where 70 percent of the country's 65 million people live. The fiercest opposition to Thaksin is based on the urban middle classes and the intellectuals. Thaksin is expected to be returned to office, just a year after his massive reelection, but with a reduced parliamentary majority. The opposition has rejected his offer to form a national unity government if he is returned to office.

Ms Arroyo cannot test her mandate with a snap election, which is unlikely. She claims support from the rural areas, but this support has appeared not in the form of votes but in expressions of support by governors and mayors during tests of strength in Congress, like the impeachment case against the President.

Thaksin has denied any wrongdoing, as Ms Arroyo has done, and has submitted this issue to the people. The Thai opposition has decided to boycott the election. This could result in a voter turnout that is so low that pro-Thaksin candidates would fail to get 20 percent of the votes of eligible voters, the legal threshold to claim seats in parliament. Some commentators say this could force another election, or more demonstrations.

And this could also mean a failure of the electoral system. Election therefore is a not a solution to Thailand's democratic test. A lecturer at Chulalongkorn University observes, "People in other countries protest for elections, but here they are protesting against elections."

Thus, in both the Thai and Philippine political stand-offs, the basic issue boils down to a failure or breakdown of electoral systems.

Second, the king's intervention. Frustrated with their electoral system, the three opposition parties have appealed to King Bhumibol Adulyadej to name a new leader. He has sent the appeal to his Privy Council. He asked the contending parties to resolve the crisis within the constitutional system and peacefully. A military spokesperson said, "His Majesty must have been saddened" by the political turmoil, adding "His Majesty will be very happy if his subjects are unified and use peaceful methods to resolve the problem."

A revered political mediator in Thai crises, the king intervened only twice during his 60-year reign: first during a military coup in the 1970s and then when bloody rioting erupted in Bangkok in the 1990s . The king has been less generous with his interventions than the Philippine Supreme Court.

The center of the Thai standoff and democratic protest is a popularly elected leader—not a general, as in the past. Unlike the unruly recent events in Manila, no coup in Bangkok precipitated the crisis and there is very little military presence in the streets, although Thailand has had a longer history of bloody coups.

Thailand's military chief, Gen. Sonthi Boonyaratglin, has told Thaksin he does not see an immediate need for a declaration of national emergency because the country remains peaceful. He added that the prolonged rally outside the Government House poses no threat to national security.

# Zero tolerance?

**AT LARGE**

*Rina Jimenez-David*

WITH THE TRANSFER OF VENUE FROM OLONgapo to Makati, things would seem to have eased quite a bit for the young woman who has filed charges of rape against four US servicemen. In case you've been hiding under a rock in the last few months, the case stems from an alleged gang rape committed last Nov. 1 in Subic. The victim was found inside the Subic Freeport after she was unceremoniously dumped there by a group of American servicemen, according to witnesses.

Four servicemen were identified and held (by American authorities), and hearings continue to this day. Recently, Evalyn Ursua, the victim's lawyer, asked Judge Renato Dilag to inhibit himself from the case since his son had once worked for a law firm defending one of the accused. The judge voluntarily stepped down, and because of alleged difficulties in finding another judge who would hear the case without bias, the Supreme Court ordered that the case be tried in Makati. Meanwhile, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, who can't seem to keep his trap shut on any issue, has said that he believes charges against three of the accused should be downgraded.

Despite the transfer, the victim still faces an uphill battle. Her lawyer, who acts as a private prosecutor, has taken on the case pro bono, but has had to pay for out-of-pocket expenses such as transportation to and from Subic. Even with the venue moved to Makati, the victim still needs to cover her and her family's expenses in Manila (she hails from Zamboanga) as well as other costs related to the hearings.

* * *

**FOR this reason, TOWNS Foundation, which counts Evalyn among its members (the group is composed of awardees of the bi-annual search for The Outstanding Women in the Nations Service), is raising money (and asking for volunteers as well) for a "defense fund."**

**While the fund-raising efforts thus far have been confined to TOWNSwomen, I'm sure donations from other sources and individuals willing to help will be welcome. I don't have any details yet, such as bank accounts, etc., but if you want to help, you may get in touch with any TOWNS member, or Imelda "Emy" Villar, the president of TOWNS Foundation. Other TOWNSwomen are also looking into the possibility of having the victim enrolled in the Witness Protection Program, though Social Welfare Secretary Espie Cabral says the victim is already receiving support and counseling from her department.**

**While women's groups such as TOWNS scramble about and scrounge for funds to keep the case alive and strengthen the resolve of the young woman and her family to pursue it, the accused enjoy not just the shelter of the American Embassy but also the legal expertise of four different law firms whose high-paid legal eagles seem to enjoy a bottomless well of financial support.**

* * *

THE US government's staunch defense of the accused servicemen, and its refusal to turn over custody of the accused to the Philippine government, give the lie to the Bush administration's declared resolve to establish a "zero tolerance" policy on solicitation of prostitution by US military personnel.

Of course, the young woman in the Subic rape case has repeatedly denied that she is or ever was a sex worker, and says she was merely socializing with the American servicemen at a bar. But as I said before, even if she were a sex worker, it should not and does not have any bearing on the case. And if the US government says it will punish any serviceman found to be paying women for sexual services, shouldn't it bear down much harder on those accused of rape? Or at the very least, shouldn't it be facilitating the legal process, instead of seeking to obstruct it every step of the way?

By way of background, Equality Now, a US-based organization that promotes women's human rights, advocated as early as June 2003 the establishment and enforcement of a zero-tolerance policy on the solicitation of prostitution by US military personnel, "noting the link recognized by the US government between sex trafficking and the demand for prostitution." As a case study, Equality Now cited the role of American forces stationed in South Korea in the commercial sex industry. A Fox TV undercover report, for instance, found American "Courtesy Patrol Officers," all members of the US military, facilitating "access by military personnel to numerous bars where trafficked women from the Philippines, Russia and elsewhere were being sold for prostitution…"

* * *

**EQUALITY Now notes that the "Courtesy Patrol Officers knew that women in these establishments had been trafficked and they were familiar with the process by which club owners obtained these women and kept them to sell for commercial sex."**

**As a result of Equality Now's campaign, 13 congresspersons requested the Office of the Inspector General in the Department of Defense to initiate "a global assessment of US military activities that promote and facilitate sex trafficking."**

**The assessment was conducted in two phases: first in South Korea and then in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo. Equality Now reports that in South Korea, Courtesy Patrols who engaged in off-installation (or off-base) policing were reported to be "overly familiar" and friendly with patrons and employees of bars and clubs, rather than behaving as officers on duty. The Defense Department said such behavior could be interpreted as giving "official imprimatur to activities in the clubs," at the same time finding that "law enforcement personnel might find nothing to report if a service member paid a 'bar fine' assessed against a woman and left the club with her for an evening."**

**Nothing new here, you might say, given what we already know from the years when Clark and Subic and environs played host to US military bases.** *(More on this tomorrow)*

# Revisiting a shared past

**LOOKING BACK**

*Ambeth R. Ocampo*

MEXICO—LAST WEDNESDAY IN MEXICO CITY, the Joint Commission for Cultural and Educational Cooperation between the Philippines and Mexico sat down to discuss a program of activities that will cover the next three years.

The head of the Philippine delegation began his opening remarks in Filipino, catching the translators by surprise and, for a brief moment, probably making the Mexican side nervous that half the day would proceed in Filipino. The Filipino greetings were then translated into English and again into Spanish, both languages being foreign and colonial to Filipinos.

That Spanish was utilized as a bridge for the delegations to communicate underscored the historic links between the Philippines and Mexico that antedate formal diplomatic relations between the two countries that only began in 1953. It is unfortunate that most Filipinos today do not know that for a long time the Philippines was actually ruled by Spain not directly from Madrid but from Mexico, and that some things Filipinos think as part of the Spanish influence in our culture are actually of Mexican origin.

Most of the members of the Philippine delegation were visiting Mexico for the first time, and yet they settled in quite fast. They discovered many commonalities, and in the process discarded, some misconceptions.

Food was one of the primary areas of mutual understanding. For example, Mexican food is richer than the so-called Tex-Mex variety popularized in Manila by American food chains and products, like Taco Bell, Pollo Loco, Nachos and Chili's. Trying various chilis, sauces, sausages and even tamales, we found not just familiar tastes, smells and flavors, but the realization of cultural exchange.

Philippine mangoes are known and appreciated in Mexico as *mangas de Manila,* while Mexican fruits, plants and vegetables are so common in the Philippines that we presumed they were indigenous. Thus, it comes as a surprise that avocado, corn and chocolate are actually "immigrants" from Mexico. Some things even keep a trace of their original Aztec names even if we have Filipinized them, like *chayote, kamote, singcamas,* and, probably, even *zapote*?

Cockfighting was introduced in Mexico from the Philippines. The veneration of the Virgin of Guadalupe in the Philippines came from Mexico, and this explains the two Makati districts, one old the other new: Guadalupe Viejo and Guadalupe Nuevo. The Black Nazarene venerated in Quiapo, Manila, is of Mexican origin and the miraculous black Virgin of Antipolo was the patroness of several successful galleon voyages between the Philippines and Mexico, thus her Spanish name of Nuestra Señora de Paz y de Buen Viaje or Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage.

Many Mexican cultural and historical influences have been assimilated so seamlessly into everyday Philippine life that we now have to revisit them to appreciate them better.

A visit to the fabulous Franz Mayer museum (in an ancient hospital for women and prostitutes) was punctuated by the excitement of coming across religious carvings in ivory, now acknowledged as *marfiles hispano-filipinos*. On display were pieces of furniture, particularly sea chests or *baules* that were used during the galleon trade. There were even a "Manton de Manila" and various indigenous Mexican textiles whose designs, motifs and colors resemble some of the textiles made by Philippine indigenous groups to this day.

Thus, the Galleon Trade moved from historical footnote to a central theme in the program because revisiting this part of our shared past is not just an exercise in academic history or antiquarian taste but reminds us that long before the word "globalization" was even coined, the Galleon Trade was the first real globalization. While globalization is a contemporary term, history shows that it began 400 years ago, when the world became smaller and the meeting between East and West was made possible through the Philippines and Mexico.

We believe that revisiting the roots of our long cultural and historic ties is a first step not just in knowing the past but, more importantly, a way to accept, explore and appreciate commonalities that form the basis for mutual understanding and friendship in the present and a platform that guides us toward a common future.

The galleon also brings contemporary relevance to issues of migration. Like Mexico, the Philippines maintains a large immigrant presence in the United States, and one wonders if we can go beyond the political and economic aspects of this issue and see the ongoing exchange or meeting of cultures and plan for the preservation of Mexican and Philippine heritage in the second generation, the children and grandchildren of immigrants.

While our diplomacy is often undertaken according to the demands of politics and economics, there are countries where culture can be used more effectively. Mexico, China, Spain, the United States, and all the countries Jose Rizal visited over a century ago are places where culture can bridge the past and the present. I used to think history was only useful for school, but now I have come to realize that the past really forms connections between us and other nations. This is another reason to revise our current history textbooks.

* * *

*Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu*

# Woman the hunter

**PINOY KASI**

*Michael L. Tan*

CAN WOMEN HUNT?

I'm sure many readers will reply, "Sure, they can, and they do." But I suspect, too, that many of you are thinking of women who hunt down men rather than wild animals and that there really isn't that much difference anyway between men and wild pigs.

Seriously, try to imagine a woman going through the forest stalking deer or wild pigs and eventually bringing home game, shot with a bow and arrow.

It does happen, and it is happening right here in the Philippines among some of our Agta groups. The first time this was reported in a journal article back in the early 1980s by anthropologist Agnes Estioko-Griffin, it sparked discussions, first among academicians and eventually captured the public's imagination after Estioko-Griffin wrote up her findings for the magazine Natural History. (Yes, Estioko-Griffin is a Filipina. She's an Ilocana, who got her anthropology degree from the University of the Philippines. She's now based in Hawaii, married to another anthropologist, Bion Griffin.)

I'd read Estioko-Griffin's articles on Agta women hunters several times, so I was excited when I heard she was in the Philippines and was scheduled to speak at the 18th International Pacific Prehistory Congress organized by the National Museum and the University of the Philippines' Archaeology Studies Program.

## Video proof

So, last Saturday, I listened not just to Estioko-Griffin, who spoke about Agta women hunters in Palanan, Isabela, but also to Thomas Headland, another anthropologist who also found Agta women hunters in Casiguran, Aurora.

At the conference, Estioko-Griffin had a special treat for participants in the form of a short video clip, taken more recently, of an Agta woman hunter. The video showed her walking through the Penabalanca river in Cagayan, amid strong rains. The waters were quite high, but the woman was steady with her gait as she looked for prey. As she crouched, you could tell she had found something. The next scene had her aiming into the bush with her bow and arrow, and then shooting.

The veterinarian in me cringed, but the anthropologist made me continue watching as she went in to get the wild pig. She had apparently killed the pig (I don't know if it was just the arrow, or if she had to do other things to finish off the pig). Before you knew it, she had the pig all trussed and secured on her back. The video clip ended with her making her way back, carrying the pig upriver even as the rains continued.

## Hunters, gatherers

So there, on video, was proof that Agta women can and do hunt on their own. These reports challenge the idea, propagated through many anthropology books, that in hunting-gathering societies, men do the hunting and women forage or gather wild food plants. Often, these accounts are accompanied by explanations that women are not as physically suited as men for hunting, mainly because they get pregnant and have to care for the children.

The reports about Agta women hunters spurred other anthropologists to look for something similar among other groups. So far, the most extensive report about women hunters has been about the Aka group in the Central African Republic. In 2001, the American Anthropologist published a report by Andrew Noss and Barry Hewlett about the Aka, as well as their review of theories around women hunters. Noss and Hewlett concluded that women will hunt only if game is abundant, offering more benefits than from food-gathering activities alone.

It should not be surprising that women hunters are so rare now, given the way forests have been depleted in most parts of the world. Besides the availability of game, women will hunt only if they live in a society which is flexible enough with gender norms, allowing them to become hunters if they choose to, and that includes access to hunting technologies.

It's easy to imagine why, among lowland Filipino groups, you won't find women hunters. In most lowland groups, a young girl would never even imagine the possibility, given the way hunting is clearly defined as a male role. Some areas might even have taboos about women joining the hunt or handling bows and arrows or guns.

Noss and Hewlett emphasize that it's not biological barriers that prevent women from hunting. As shown in Estioko-Griffin's video, women can be very good hunters. I would think, too, that women could make better hunters given their patience. Noss and Hewlett also observe that the women hunters are to be found among young and older women, mothers and grandmothers. If child-rearing responsibilities prevent hunting, it's mainly among women who have infants, since carrying an infant around isn't exactly conducive to the silence and stealth needed as they stalk their prey.

## Opportunities, necessity

The accounts of women hunters force us to rethink some of our assumptions about gender. Certainly, we should be thinking twice about our own biases in relation to the physical capabilities of women. We often presume women can't assume certain tasks because they're physically weaker than men, but these assumptions are often flawed, even contradictory. In the Philippines, we often say women shouldn't be lifting heavy objects because "their uterus will drop." Yet no one questions the way women have to carry around infants and children, weighing up to 20 kilos, all day long.

It's all a matter of how society opens up opportunities. We presume women can't (or shouldn't) hunt because then child-rearing responsibilities would be affected. Yet, Estioko-Griffin found that the survival rates of the children of women hunters were not any worse than those of women who didn't hunt. We find similar debates going on today, with societies tending to create so much guilt for women who decide to take up jobs outside the home. Instead of berating women, "How could you sacrifice your children?" we should be asking, "Why aren't the men doing more to help with caring for the children?"

Different societies have different "space" for women to take up opportunities. I am reminded of an Ilocano woman I met many years back, in a remote part of the Cordillera, who, after being widowed, took over her husband's farming duties, and did quite well. With the hard life in the Ilocos, it's not surprising the Ilocanos do allow their women to become more independent and assertive, certainly much more than, say, groups in the Visayas.

Watching the video clip of the Agta woman hunter and remembering the Ilocano widow who farmed reminded me of how very strong women can be. But I couldn't help feeling somewhat depressed as well, knowing that in so many instances, women assume these roles out of necessity. Necessity, they say, is the mother of invention. I'd modify that to say, necessity is the mother of all mothers: women often innovate because they have to, for the sake of their families.

# Lessons from RP politics

ROBERT FULGHUM LEARNED MOST OF what he really needed to know—about how to live and what to do and how to be—in kindergarten. Mine, I learned in Philippine politics. Most of these, just recently.

Some of the things I learned:

1. During elections, the lesser evil isn't really the best choice. It's still evil.

2. Voting is a right. Getting counted is a privilege.

3. Calling an election official is not illegal. Wiretapping that call is. The first, a mere "lapse in judgment"; the second, a criminal act.

4. When caught cheating, deny. Then, lie. Saying sorry is the last option. But never ever admit to doing anything. The formula worked for the President, it should work for anyone.

5. You cannot have a thinking President and a thinking Vice President at the same time. One has to be mentally inferior and less experienced to achieve equilibrium.

6. It is easier to oust someone who's male and powerful than somebody who's female and extremely lucky.

7. To err is not just human, it's presidential. To forgive may be divine, but utterly stupid.

8. The pork barrel per se is not evil or corrupt. Lawmakers are.

9. It takes two to tango, but all of two Houses to Cha-cha.

10. Critical collaboration is the stance taken by oppositionists otherwise known as "appointees-in-waiting."

11. Coup plotters always come in three types: plain adventurist, genuine reformist and former senator.

12. People who were ousted by previous people power revolts should not be at the forefront of another people power attempt. Else, it would miserably fail.

13. Seditious journalism does not guarantee high readership. A police raid does.

14. You want to become a newspaper editor, forget about taking a course in communications. Join the Philippine National Police instead, and strive to be its chief.

15. When anti-riot cops bodily carry you off a rather peaceful rally against your will (as in the case of Rep. Rissa Hontiveros-Baraquel), that's to safeguard you from harm.

16. If you're a journalist and you wrote something deemed offensive by a politician, it's libel. When a lawmaker says something defamatory against anyone, it's a privilege speech.

17. The State of the Nation Address is when the country's most prominent and influential liars come together to listen to the country's biggest liar.

18. When in UP, they are "hard-line activists." In Mendiola, they are "hardcore militants." In Congress, they are party-list representatives.

How about you? What have you learned so far?

**—LOI REYES LANDICHO,**
**9F Jacinta Bldg. II,**
**Guadalupe, Edsa, Makati City**

# Insensitivity of conservative views on sexuality

ON THE FRONT PAGE NEWS ITEM, "MALE nurse wants to be a she legally" (PDI, 3/16/06), Delmar Cariño referred to the petitioner repeatedly as a "male" nurse and a "man." International media have, for the most part, complied with requests from lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgenders and queer groups to refer to individuals using nouns and pronouns which reflect the sex with which they identify themselves (regardless of the presence or absence of surgical changes). This is a practice recently institutionalized by the AP in its official stylebook.

While popular interpretations of the law may continue to disregard individual sexual autonomy, media outfits such as the INQUIRER should be conscious of the implicit message carried by its writers' language choices.

On this, the INQUIRER has no choice but to make a political decision; an insistence on privileging sex assignment at the time of birth can rightfully be aligned with the insensitivity of conservative views regarding transsexuality.

**—BOBBY BENEDICTO,**
**Department of Political Science,**
**Ateneo de Manila University,**
**Loyola Heights, Katipunan Avenue, QC**

# Police officers guilty of illegal detention

AKBAYAN PARTY-LIST REP. RISA HONTIVEROS-Baraquel was dragged and forced into a waiting vehicle by members of the Philippine National Police. Notwithstanding her resistance, she was brought to Camp Karingal.

The PNP then came out with a statement denying her arrest and any intention to arrest her.

By making that statement, the PNP has unwittingly confessed to committing the crime of arbitrary detention. Article 124 defines arbitrary detention as an act of "any public employee who, without legal grounds, detains a person." The law does not fix any minimum period for the detention. The Supreme Court ruled in one case that detention for one hour already constitutes arbitrary detention.

Retired Chief Justice Ramon Aquino, in his "Commentaries on the Revised Penal Code," says "the legal grounds for detaining a person are (a) the commission of a crime and (b) any ailment, like insanity, requiring a patient's compulsory confinement in a hospital." Aquino further adds that "a person who has committed a crime may be detained by first arresting him."

Since Baraquel was neither arrested for violating any crime, nor suffering from any ailment requiring her hospitalization, the PNP was clearly guilty of arbitrary detention, which carries with it the maximum penalty of imprisonment of two years and four months.

**—ANTONIO C. PASTELERO,**
**Pastelero Law Office,**
**1503B East Tower, PSE Centre,**
**Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City**

# Illegal arrests of protesters

## VOICES ON INQ7.NET

LET ME EXPRESS MY FEELINGS TO THE poor people whom Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has deprived of their human rights. It might be best for the Filipino people to support an impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo because of the illegal arrests of the protesters. People have the right to express what they feel, because the Philippines is a democratic country and not governed by martial law.—**Ryan Calisa, Iligan City (via e-mail)**

* * *

Whether the accusations are true or not, GMA is still the President of the Philippines. And she is recognized internationally.

For God's sake, let's give Ms Arroyo respect. She is working very hard to improve our economy that will benefit the poor and peace-loving Filipinos, and she deserves to be respected as a leader. She is doing her best. Let's stop the finger-pointing and too much politics. It can only stop the momentum of growth.

It's time for the leaders of both the administration and the opposition, the House of Representatives and the Senate to work together to move the Philippines forward. How happy we will be if that happens.

Let's do our share by being constructive.—**Carol Macario, Abu Dhabi (via e-mail)**

* * *

The United States is warned not to make the same mistake twice.

With the Cold War over and the American bases in the Philippines gone, the country has less to offer on matters of strategic interest to the United States. GMA has proven to be a very unreliable partner in the fight against terrorism despite her earlier pronouncements, which turned out to be nothing but lip service. The pullout of the tiny Filipino contingent in Iraq after the Angelo de la Cruz hostage crisis attested to her unreliability.

Besides, supporting a nationally despised person who is widely believed to have cheated to become President would be like pouring gasoline on an already burning anti-American sentiment among the people.

The Americans should advise Ms Arroyo to cut and cut cleanly before the bad turns to worse.—**Ramon Mayuga, Germany (via e-mail)**

* * *

There are too many opposition leaders trying to claim that they are the voice of the people. Who is the voice of the people?

If GMA is doing a poor job, why are investors still coming to the Philippines? Why are we having an influx of tourists? I still cannot determine who the opposition is planning to bring to Malacañang to replace GMA. Does it even have one in mind?

Why can we not unite to pray for our government leaders that they will be guided by a spirit of humility and of service instead of a spirit of selfishness and self-righteousness? Why spend time planning attempts to overthrow the government and not attempts to promote tourism and nation-building?

I say everybody needs to sit back and take time to look for solutions that can help our country to improve its current situation. It will be a tough and long wait for us to see the fruits of what we plant, but it will be great.—**Jaypee P., USA (via e-mail)**

* * *

I believe that GMA should step down, provided that there will be a smooth transition in government. What many or a few are asking is not only for Ms Arroyo to step down but for her to bring her team along with her.

But, who do her opponents think is morally upright and qualified to replace her without trashing our Constitution? Our Constitution provides that a duly elected President should govern our country, and at present GMA is it. Although there are claims that she cheated in the election, which many believe, including myself, Philippine politics has been dirty since time immemorial and cheating is not new.

What I understand and believe is that all these people, including Ms Arroyo, are playing politics, and some people cannot accept the fact that they are being beaten by a team whose center is 4'11".—**Jun Medrano, Las Piñas (via e-mail)**

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Micro Entrepreneur

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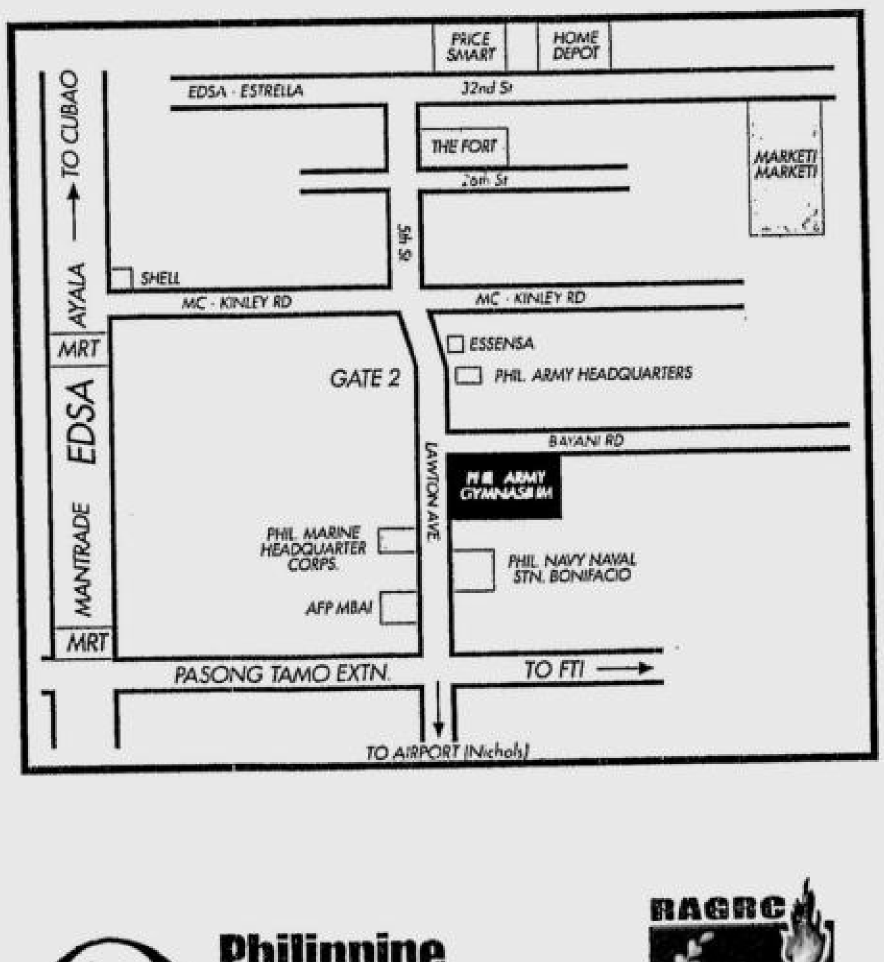
**March 31, Friday**

**RIBBON CUTTING** (Mayor Sigfrido Tinga with Mrs. Tinga • Mr. Jose Concepcion III with Mrs. Marissa Concepcion • Ms.Vivienne Tan • Ms. Maricel Laxa) • **NATIONAL ANTHEM** • **INVOCATION** • **GO NEGOSYO MUSIC VIDEO** • **FEU GO NEGOSYO DANCERS** • **OPENING REMARKS** (Jose Ma. Concepcion III) • **MESSAGE** (Gen. Generoso Senga) • **BUSINESSMAN MANIC MANAOG** (Leo Martinez) • **INTRODUCTION OF PROGRAM AND INTERACTIVE SESSIONS BY HOST** (Carelle Mangaliag) • **FORUM 1: "MICRONEGOSYO, KAPANGYARIHAN NG KABABAIHAN"** [Moderator - Pia Arcangel, Panelists: Myla Villanueva (MDI Group Holdings) • Myrna Yao (National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women) • Cheese Ledesma (The Big Chill) • Jeanne Bañez (Balut Eggspress)• Florida Banayat (Phil. Air Force Officers Ladies' Club) • Merle Alferez (MSA)*] • **TESTIMONY: "ANG BALANSYADONG BUHAY: PAMILYA'T NEGOSYO"** (Maricel Laxa) • **FORUM 2: "POSIBLENG NEGOSYO, ANONG BABAGAY SA'YO?"** (Moderator - Karen Davila, Panelists: Les Reyes (Reyes Haircutters) • Richie Cuna (Fiorgelato) • Chit Juan (Figaro) • Rowena Villegas (Wynski) • Karl Tan (Phil. Amalgamated Groceries and Supermarkets Association) • Agnes Car (Women Inventors Assoc. of the Phils., Inc.) • **MICRONEGOSYO -- NOW NA!** (Arnel Ignacio) • **MAKATANG NONOY: ISANG TULA HANDOG SA KABABAIHAN** (Ony Carcamo) • **FORUM 3: "PERANG PANG-NEGOSYO, SAAN KA NGA BA TATAKBO?"** [Moderator - Cherry Mercado, Panelists: Ma. Corazon Dabao (AFPMBAI) • Bert Galvan (GMA Rural Bank of Cavite) • Jessica Barrun (People's Credit and Finance Corporation) • Noel Camacho (Bayan Foundation) • Ma. Teresa Reyes (BPI Family Savings Bank) • Rafael Serrano (First Macro Bank) • Derick Rasalan (PSBank)] • **TESTIMONY: "PAGNENEGOSYO KASAMA ANG KAPUSO'T KAPAMILYA"** (Anthony Pangilinan) • **TALK: "KALAYAAN SA KAKAPUSAN"** (Francisco Colayco) • **FORUM 4: "MGA PAYO AT GABAY SA TAGUMPAY"** [(Moderators - Anna Periquet and Carl Balita of Radyo Negosyo, Panelists: Maoi Arroyo (Hybridigm) • Rommel Juan (Binalot Fiesta Foods) • Doyee Tumpalan (First Quadrant) • Ricardo Collantes (Kookai's) • Johnlu Koa (The French Baker) • Sandy Javier (Andok's) • Ronald Pineda (Folded and Hung)]

**April 1, Saturday**

**SKILLS DEMO/TRAINING BY LE CORDON BLEU, TESDA-NCR, DOST, TLRC, AND REYES HAIRCUTTERS: POLVORON AND PASTILLAS MAKING** (Laura Lazaro - WIAPI) • **CHOCOLATE CANDY MAKING** (Anecita Pablo - TLRC) • **PAPER TOLE** (Shirly Fabros - Approtech Asia) • **REFLEXOLOGY** c/o Women Center • **MEAT PROCESSING AND DIMSUM MAKING** c/o Approtech Asia • **COOKING AND FOOD PREPARATION DEMOS** • **BASIC HAIRCUTTING** • **WEB DESIGN** (Mark Fernandez - TESDA-NCR) • **TOMATO-BASED PRODUCTS** c/o Approtech Asia • **COMPOST TEA BREWER** (Capt. James Fros Reamon - ICII) • **AUTOCADD** (Freddie Estacio - TESDA-NCR) • **PRESERVED SAMPALOC AND TEA MAKING** (Rita Ritz - WIAPI) • **HANDS-ON BAKING DEMO (HAND-MIXED PINOY PAN DE SAL) AND MICRO-BAKERY BUSINESS MENTORING** (Johnlu Koa - The French Baker) • **CELLPHONE REPAIR** c/o Approtech Asia • **SESSIONS ON STARTING A BUSINESS: HOW TO START A FRANCHISE BUSINESS** c/o Association of Filipino Franchisers, Inc. • **"LAKBAY KAINAN: GOURMET PARA SA MASA"** (Ludette Dayrit - Le Cordon Bleu) • **HOW TO START A FOOD CART BUSINESS** c/o Food Cart Association of the Philippines • **USAPANG MICRONEGOSYO** • **HOW TO START A SALON/BARBERSHOP** c/o Reyes Haircutters • **HOW TO START A HOME SPA BUSINESS** (Cathy Brillantes - Turvill - Founding President, Spa Association of the Philippines) • **"BIGATIN KA BA SA NEGOSYO?"** (Willie Revillame) • **BUSINESS MENTORING BOOTH** - Mentoring from 11 am to 3 pm c/o Anna Periquet (Anna Marie Home Collection (Philippines), Inc.), Alberto Fenix, Jr. (President, Pulp Tech), Lin Deres (Franchise Manager, Goldilocks), Jhonny Filart (President, One Source Port Service, Inc.), Bing Limjoco (Chairman, Philippine Franchise Association), Dante Ang, Jr. (President, Manila Times), Lray Villafuerte (Chairman, Lara's Gifts and Decors), Maret Bautista (Vice President, Follosco Group of Cos.), Mel Alonzo (Chairman, SBGFC), Victor Tan (President, Bobson), Jose Magsaysay (President, Potato Corner), Honor Dimapilis (Faculty, DLSU), Bong Abad (Faculty, DLSU), Jojo Mitra (President, Purong Makapuno), Richie Cuna (President, AFFI/Fiorgelato), Rommel Juan (President and CEO, Binalot Fiesta Foods), Rosemarie Lee (President, Memory Magic) and Rene Canlas (Consultant, BPO Industry)



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# First OFW bank for 'world's greatest workers'

From page A1

President said.

The new bank will receive remittances sent by OFWs through postal offices abroad. It will send the money to their loved ones through automated teller machines (ATMs) that it will put up in the 2,000 post offices throughout the country.

In December 2004, the Commission on Filipinos Overseas estimated the total number of OFWs at 4.9 million, including 3.6 million on temporary employment and 1.3 million working without legal documents.

## 'Novel' idea

Macasaet told reporters that the bank's creation was a "novel concept," noting that OFWs currently remit their money through the existing banking system, such as through the Philippine National Bank and Allied Bank, or informal channels.

"So instead of going, say, to a branch of a certain bank, all they have to do is go [to a post office abroad], remit the money and send it here, and we receive it and we have 2,000 post offices here," he said.

"We will be radically different because we will be using the post offices abroad and we'll be using the post offices here," Macasaet said.

He said he planned to talk to Postmaster General Dario Rama so that the new OFW bank could have access to the post offices nationwide.

Negotiations will also be made with postal offices abroad, particularly in the United States, the Middle East and the European Union, to facilitate the remittances of the Filipino workers, he said.

Last year, Macasaet said the OFWs in the United States sent the biggest amount of remittances at $6 billion, followed by those in the Middle East ($1.4 billion), Europe ($1.4 billion) and Asia ($1.1 billion).

## Informal channels

Through the new bank, he said, the government intended to corner 20 percent of the amount that the OFWs normally send home through informal channels. Remittances sent this way amount to $2 billion, he said.

Macasaet said the OFW bank would offer lower service fees, charging 20 to 30 percent less than what the existing banking system collected. At present, banks charge $5 to $20 per remittance.

The new bank will also offer better foreign exchange rates compared to other banks, he said.

"When an OFW sends money, the rate is $51. They (banks) give you only P49; we'll probably give them a little more," he said.

Macasaet said the OFW bank would offer other services, such as free e-mail services in the post offices here for the families of migrant workers.

For a "minimal" fee, the families can get in touch with their loved ones through the Voice Over Internet Protocol, a new technology where they can talk with their relatives via the Internet.

## Legal requirements

Right now, Macasaet said he was completing the legal requirements to set up the OFW bank. These include securing approval from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

It will be the first time for the PPSB to venture into a project involving OFW remittances since the bank mainly deals with microfinancing and rural lending.

## 18 branches nationwide

PPSB has 18 branches nationwide. Last year, it earned P30 million, the same amount it made in 2004, Macasaet said.

Asked whether the new OFW bank intended to replace Philippine National Bank and other banks here, Macasaet said it would actually "complement the banks."

"We should have a bank for our new heroes, that is the objective of the President," he told reporters.

The President said the sacrifices, problems and perils faced by the OFWs abroad did not escape the notice and concern of the government.

For this reason, she said, the government intends to help them from the time they leave the country up to the time they return home.

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## THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, March 31, 2006
4th Week of Lent

| | |
|---|---|
| 1st Reading: | Wis 2:1, 12-22 |
| Gospel: | John 7:1-2, 25-30 |

Jesus went around Galilee; he would not go about in Judea because the Jews wanted to kill him. Now the Jewish feast of the Tents was at hand.

But after his brothers had gone to the festival, he also went up, not publicly but in secret.

Some of the people of Jerusalem said, "Is this not the man they want to kill? And here he is speaking freely, and they don't say a word to him? Can it be that the rulers know that this is really the Christ? Yet we know where this man comes from; but when the Christ appears, no one will know where he comes from."

So Jesus announced in a loud voice in the Temple court where he was teaching, "You say that you know me and know where I come from! I have not come of myself; I was sent by the One who is true, and you don't know him. I know him for I come from him and he sent me."

They would have arrested him, but no one laid hands on him because his time had not yet come.

**Commentary**

*The truth incurs wrath and provokes the evil that reacts and refuses to hear. The simple presence of someone who is good and holy, and speaks of God, causes those who choose evil to react violently and beset the one who is a living witness against them. But the prophet and those who are just will not respond in kind. They will rely on God, in spite of torture, revilement, condemnation and a shameful death. They do not know God and they turn against the innocent. Jesus the just one is hunted for the kill by his own. He must even worship in secret. But they do not know him at all. They do not perceive in their evilness and violence that Jesus comes from God and he knows God.*

*Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)*

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# Cha-cha a 'dry run' for impeachment battle, says Joker

By Philip C. Tubeza

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO "does not care" if the campaign to amend the 1987 Constitution fails as long as she wins anew when the opposition again tries to impeach her in June, Sen. Joker Arroyo said yesterday.

Arroyo said the efforts of the President's allies to amend the Charter—whether through a constituent assembly or a people's initiative—were all meant to be a "dry run" for the impeachment battle she was certain to face.

And going by the numbers—only 50—that the House minority was able to muster against a constituent assembly, the President cannot be impeached anymore, he said.

## 'Smart little girl'

"This is a dry run for an impeachment. You know, that smart little girl, she's a good operator. She has succeeded in measuring just how far the House opposition can go after her," the maverick administration senator said at a press briefing.

"I'm not saying she cannot be impeached. I'm only saying that with the numbers now, she cannot be impeached," he said.

The House minority needs 79 votes to impeach the President. According to Arroyo, the President used the Charter change debates to smoke out those who would vote against her in the House, and discovered that the numbers had not changed.

"Look at the arithmetic. The most that [the House minority] can get, the maximum they admit, is 50 [votes]," Arroyo said, adding:

"In impeachment, you need 79. The House opposition [members] say they have 50 against a constituent assembly. So, it's short of 79, and it's about the same number as those who voted [against the President] in the impeachment [last year]."

## Real target

Arroyo said the President might have the administration flexing its muscle and using its resources for Charter change, but her real target was the second impeachment complaint.

He said all this had dispelled the notion that the President was just a technocrat with no political savvy to last in office.

"She's underrated. She has already measured [the political situation]. However I disagree with her goals, I have a grudging admiration for her," the senator said.

He added: "Just think about it. She has the House, the executive department, the governors and mayors, the business community, and she has divided the Liberal Party, the Makati Business Club, even the [Catholic bishops].

"And she has a [Vice President] Noli [de Castro] who has no ambitions. What more can you ask for?"

# *Pimentel: Conflict of interest*

SENATE MINORITY LEADER Aquilino Pimentel Jr. questioned lawyer Raul Lambino's dual role as a member of the Charter change advocacy commission and spokesperson of Sigaw ng Bayan that's spearheading the signature campaign.

"Being a member of the commission, he is supposedly a public official. He should not be involved in the initiative," Pimentel told the INQUIRER.

He said Lambino's high-profile role in the signature campaign only revealed the government's hand in the exercise.

"Indeed, the hand of the government is dipped into this pie, as it were ... That is contrary to all the requirements of constitutionalism and the rule of law," Pimentel said.

But Lambino said: "There's no conflict of interest between my role as an advocate of constitutional reforms and as spokesperson of Sigaw ng Bayan. In the first place, I'm not a government official or an employee."

He said he was "invited" by the President to be part of the advocacy commission.

He stressed that except for transportation fare for his speaking engagements, he did not get paid by the commission.

# GMA rides Charter change train

From page A1

lose it through destructive politics."

Bunye also said that unless the country went through Charter change in order to overhaul its economic and political system, "a cycle of stagnation and degradation will continue to hound us."

## Con-Ass continuing

But Ms Arroyo's move may have been premature because Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno said the government could only take part in a people's initiative only after the Comelec shall have validated the results of the signature campaign and endorsed a plebiscite on Charter change.

Puno also said the move to gather 195 signatures for the House to convene itself into a constituent assembly (Con-Ass) to amend the Constitution would continue. It was Puno who led this campaign as head of Kampi, the President's political party, before he accepted his Cabinet post.

"They are still trying to do that because they believe they can still get the 195 votes anytime now. They also want to avoid constitutional challenges, and they believe the 195 votes will be an easier issue to deal with in the Supreme Court," he said.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya justified Ms Arroyo's seesawing on her preferred mode of amending the Charter—from a constitutional convention, originally, to a constituent assembly last year, to a people's initiative yesterday.

"I think the bottom line is that she wants Charter change in whatever mode," he said.

Andaya also said the government could only provide a budget for the people's initiative if the Comelec orders a plebiscite.

"That is just an opinion of the President, but for us to put in funds for this particular endeavor, we'll have to wait for a positive ruling from the Comelec calling for a plebiscite," he said.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, economic adviser to the President, said that holding a plebiscite would cost only P2.192 billion, and that this could be easily funded in a reenacted budget (similar to the situation in 2004) or in the 2006 budget. Salceda said Ms Arroyo could dip into her contingency fund to augment the financing for the plebiscite. He said the plebiscite could possibly be held in July, but that this might be a tight schedule.

He also noted that a recent survey showing that 43 percent of Filipinos supported Charter change was a compelling reason to hold a plebiscite to determine the public pulse on the issue.

"I don't think the opposition has anything to fear in a plebiscite if they believe that 84 percent of the public hate the President and she has thrown her full support behind Charter change," Salceda said.

## Doesn't come free

Puno vehemently denied that the government had a hand in the people's initiative.

"If there is anything that the opposition might say with a degree of credibility, it is that there needs to be more information in these barangay assemblies. But to say that we bought or coerced the barangay captains, I don't think that is true," he said.

When asked if he was aware who had financed the signature campaign, Puno said: "I don't know; you tell me. Obviously, this is something that does not come free."

Puno claimed that the department of Interior and Local Government did not realize that the signature campaign was being undertaken at such a massive scale until after the groups behind it had reached their goal.

"We thought it was just an information campaign geared for 1,000 barangays. Even the opposition underestimated the capability of Sigaw ng Bayan. Apparently it was a much larger exercise than that, and I congratulate them for accomplishing what they did," he said.

Sigaw ng Bayan, composed of 100 multisectoral civic and nongovernment organizations, is spearheading the signature campaign for Charter change nationwide.

## Unanimous

The decision to proceed with the verification of signatures has the full backing of all the members of the Comelec, according to Commissioner Romeo Brawner.

"We in the commission are unanimous in saying that as far as initiatory or preparatory steps on the people's initiative are concerned, the Comelec, as held by the Supreme Court in the landmark case of Santiago vs Comelec ... has an active role," Brawner told reporters.

But when asked if the commission had an en banc resolution to back Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr.'s decision on Monday to begin verifying the signatures, Brawner said: "No, not yet."

He said the Comelec issued last week an en banc resolution allowing election registrars to release the list of voters to whoever would ask for it.

## Full steam ahead

Sigaw ng Bayan is pressing ahead with the verification of 5.6 million signatures it said it had gathered. *(See related story in Across the Nation, Page A22.)*

"We are now in the process of having the signatures verified with the municipal, city and provincial election registrars. We are verifying signatures as we gather them," Sigaw ng Bayan spokesperson Raul Lambino said in a phone interview.

Lambino, a lawyer and law professor at the University of the East and University of Pangasinan, shrugged off warnings that the proponents and election registrars risked being cited for contempt by the Supreme Court if they insisted on verifying the signatures without an enabling law.

"We are not bothered by the threats that cases will be filed against us. If they're going to file cases now, let them go to the courts now. These are desperate moves by people who can't offer anything for the welfare of the people," said Lambino, a member of the Charter change advocacy commission.

## Mere opinion

The commission, chaired by Lito Lorenzana, is spearheading a campaign to educate the people on the need for constitutional reforms.

Lambino said Sigaw ng Bayan viewed the high court's oft-cited 1997 ruling on a people's initiative as a "mere opinion" that should not be used against such an exercise.

"It's a mere opinion of the issue; it's not jurisprudence. Therefore, it should not be given basis toward the implementation and realization of a people's initiative. As far as we are concerned, that is not the issue of the controversy," he said.

In its March 1997 ruling on the Santiago vs Comelec case, the tribunal said Republic Act No. 6735 (The Initiative and Referendum Act) was inadequate to cover a people's initiative to amend the Constitution.

It also said the Comelec was "permanently enjoined" from entertaining any such petition until "a sufficient law" had been enacted to implement such a system.

## No promises

Lambino, a former member of the Consultative Commission that recommended the scrapping of the 2007 elections preparatory to a shift to the parliamentary system, dismissed claims that the signatures were gathered in exchange for promises of money and food.

To claims that local officials were behind the initiative, he said: "We have asked government officials to assist us in informing and educating the people on the issue. What's wrong with that? That's part of their duty to inform and educate the people."

Lambino also said his group fully explained to the people the advantages of amending the Charter and shifting to a parliamentary system before asking them to sign up. *With reports from Jerome Aning and Christine O. Avendaño*

# JDV sees 'interim parliament' by July

From page A1

jump-start the initiative process by filing a petition proposing an amendment to the Constitution.

## Replacing Congress

De Venecia is confident that the interim parliament can immediately take the place of the present bicameral Congress. He quoted RA 6735 as saying that if ratified by the people, the shift to a unicameral parliamentary system—the amendment being pushed by the initiative—"shall become effective [on] the day of the plebiscite."

The Speaker also said the interim parliament would be able to complete all the other proposed amendments before Christmas.

Only when the people elect the new members of parliament in June 2007 can the government fully shift to the parliamentary system, he said.

Rep. Constantino Jaraula, the point man in the House-backed Charter change drive, said congressmen and senators would become automatic members of the interim parliament until June 2007 "to finish the process of amendment and revision of the Constitution, because the people's initiative allows only limited amendments."

## RA 6735 as enabling law

And until the Supreme Court en banc rules with finality that there is no enabling law for a people's initiative, the process of amending the Charter should continue, De Venecia said.

"The contention of the people's organizations, which is also the contention of our legal experts, is that we already have an enabling law—RA 6735. The only reason being raised by those against the people's initiative is the 1997 Supreme Court decision," he said, adding:

"If there's a challenge, the Supreme Court should revisit this particular people's initiative and clarify things once and for all. Millions of voters are staking their signatures ... How can the Supreme Court, or Malacañang, or Congress, be higher than the sovereign will of the people?"

De Venecia said the high court should "reconsider its position given the different set of circumstances obtaining now."

He pointed out that there were no complete signatures in 1997, referring to the signature drive mounted by the People's Initiative for Reforms, Modernization and Action (Pirma) during the Ramos administration.

"This is a completely new face. I think we now have in excess of 12 percent ... The signatures could reach more than 10 million," he said.

De Venecia said Gleo Guerra, a director of the Supreme Court's press information office, should not have said it was clear from the tribunal's 1997 decision that the people's initiative needed an enabling law.

He said the tribunal spoke on its own without relying on functionaries.

On Wednesday, Guerra said the high court had ruled that RA 6735 was "inadequate to cover the system of a people's initiative."

She said those pushing the signature drive for Charter change would have to abide by that ruling.

## 'Panic mode'

The speed with which the people's initiative is proceeding has triggered panic among the senators, according to House Deputy Majority Leader Antonio Cerilles and Antique Rep. Exequiel Javier, vice chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments.

In a joint statement, Cerilles and Javier described as "baseless and irrelevant" Resolution No. 478, signed by 21 senators questioning the role of the Department of Interior and Local Government in the ongoing signature drive.

They said the adoption of the resolution showed that the senators were "in panic mode, knowing that with the people's initiative, their relevance could be jeopardized..."

Cerilles said the senators should not ignore the clamor for Charter change because "our political structure has become stagnant, and only suits prima donnas who want to grab attention."

But consumer welfare advocate Raul T. Concepcion said his group, the Consumer and Oil Price Watch (COPW), would gather support from the private sector to launch a nonpartisan information drive on Charter change.

## Not take a position

According to Concepcion, the business sector will not take a position regarding moves to effect a shift to a parliamentary system of government but the private sector will exert efforts to keep the public informed.

"The role of the business sector is to act as a convenor and invite resource persons to share their views and help the people understand the issues," Concepcion said.

He said that he had met with five business leaders, and that he hoped to convene an expanded group early next week to join the information drive.

"The COPW will question the legality of the people's initiative considering that the Supreme Court has declared the law on such an initiative an insufficient basis for a grass-roots campaign to amend the Constitution," he said. *With a report from Ronnel W. Domingo*

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# 4 lawyers' groups seek disbarment of Gonzalez

From page A1

ministration of justice" and placed the legal profession in "disgrace."

The Counsels for the Defense of Liberties (Codal), Young Lawyers Group, Lawyers League for Liberty and Alternative Law Groups yesterday announced that they would file with the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) on Monday a complaint calling for the dropping of Gonzalez from the "Roll of Attorneys."

"We cannot close our eyes to the fact that Secretary Gonzalez continues to commit acts that violate the rights of others and defeat the ends of both substantive and procedural justice considering his position," Neri Colmenares, Codal convenor, said at a press briefing.

Colmenares said Gonzalez should be more circumspect with his statements and should stop shooting from the hip.

Told about the complaint, Gonzalez said: "Let's wait until the Supreme Court decides on that. How can I get a fair hearing before the IBP when they are the complainant. They are the ones who should be disbarred for doing that."

He said he was no stranger to that kind of complaint.

"In fact, I already had two disbarment cases that Supreme Court dismissed," the justice secretary said.

He said that IBP president Jose Anselmo Cadiz was critical of the government.

Gonzalez is also no stranger to suspension.

## Suspended in 1988

In 1988, the Supreme Court suspended Gonzalez, then the Tanodbayan, for assuming the duties of the newly created post of Ombudsman. He was appointed Tanodbayan in 1986.

In a five-page draft complaint, the lawyers' groups accused Gonzalez of committing acts "that do damage to his function and the legal profession."

The groups said Gonzalez "has not only violated the Constitution and the laws but also his duty and oath as a lawyer, and is therefore unfit to remain a member of the legal profession."

They cited Gonzalez's alleged violation of "laws, rules and procedures" by "constantly, arrogantly and volubly" preempting and prejudging cases and issues being heard and deliberated at the Department of Justice (DOJ).

The groups said this resulted in the "violation and damage to the constitutional right to due process, and to civil and political rights of the people."

They took exception to Gonzalez's statement that the arrest of former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman was legal, thereby prejudging the outcome of any complaint she may file against her arresting officers.

Police arrested Soliman on March 17 as she and other members of the Black and White Movement (BWM) were about to take a stroll at Baywalk along Roxas Boulevard. The BWM is calling for the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

## Premature declaration

The lawyers' groups also questioned the justice secretary's premature declaration of ABS-CBN's liability in the "Wowowee" stampede while it was still under investigation by a DOJ panel.

The stampede killed 71 people, mostly women and elderly, and injured 900 fans of the TV show on Feb. 4.

Gonzalez had also insinuated that the so-called Batasan 5 party-list lawmakers were "rebels."

By declaring that the lawmakers had diverted congressional funds to the New People's Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, without offering an ounce of proof, Gonzalez virtually preempted any inquest or preliminary investigation involving the respondents, the lawyers said.

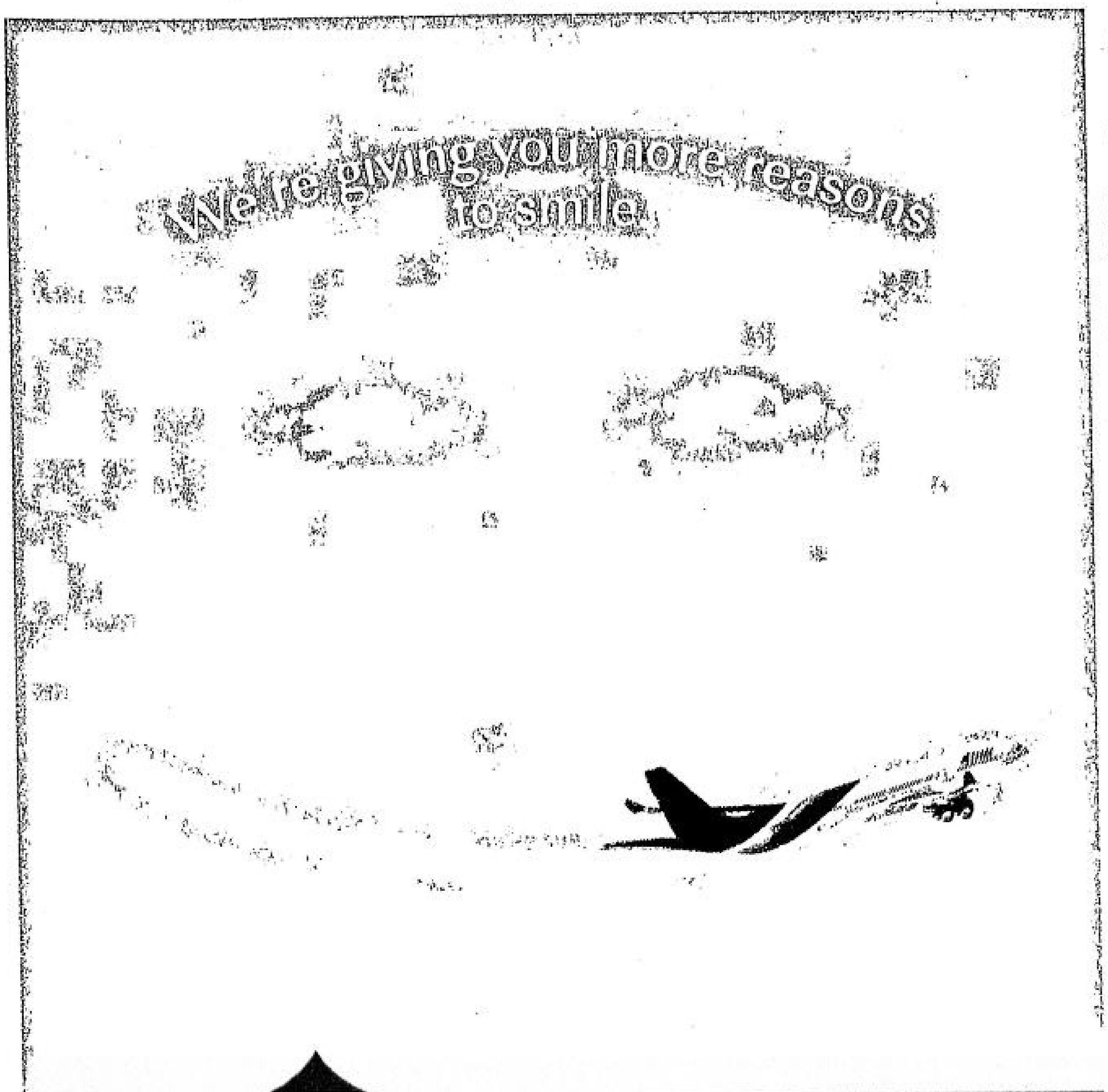
## Too beautiful to be jailed

They said Gonzalez disgraced the legal profession when he "betrayed his ignorance of the law" when he said that actress Susan Roces was "too beautiful" to be jailed and that former Vice President Teofisto Guingona was too old to serve a prison term.

The groups said Gonzalez also violated his oath to obey all laws and his duty as an attorney under Section 20 (f) Rule 138 of the Rules of Court "to abstain from all offensive personality and to advance no fact prejudicial to the honor and reputation of a party or witness."

Under the Code of Professional Responsibility, the groups said, Gonzalez was liable for violation of Rule 13.02, which bars a lawyer from "issuing statements in the media regarding a pending case tending to arouse public opinion for or against a party."

They added that Gonzalez also violated the provisions of Republic Act No. 6713 or the Ethical Standards Act and Republic Act No. 3019 or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.



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# Pimentel: We've too many lawyers, close law schools for 5 to 10 years

By Philip C. Tubeza

IF SENATE MINORITY LEADER Aquilino Pimentel Jr. had his way, the country's law schools should be closed for five to 10 years to counter the country's "very litigious" culture.

"This is off the cuff but several years ago I publicly endorsed the idea that we should close our law schools for a number of years because [the number of] lawyers was getting too many," said Pimentel, who is himself a lawyer and whose son topped the 1990 bar examinations.

"This is actually wishful thinking but it would be better if all (were closed). If not all, then some," he said.

The Philippines, a country of 85 million people, has more lawyers than Japan, an affluent nation with a population of around 125 million.

"We have become a very litigious people. There is this cultural trend that everything should be settled through legal propositions. *Natapakan lang, sue kaagad,*" he said.

Pimentel said the "integrity" of the legal profession was also being "assaulted from within and without."

"There are lawyers who would sell their soul for 30 pieces of silver for anyone who can pay up. From without, there are people who are corrupting lawyers who are also willing to be corrupted," Pimentel said.

"In other words, there is a need to remind all lawyers that this is a profession and not a business," he said.

Former Sen. Rene Saguisag blamed the martial law regime of former President Ferdinand Marcos for the "decay" in the legal profession and other sectors of society.

# UP tops bar exams again . . .

From page A1

Jose Bernardo (Ateneo, 85.05); Dexter B. Calizar (Philippine Law School, 84.70) and Johnson Ong of the Far Eastern University (FEU, 84.65).

"I want to change society," said De Venecia in a brief interview with the INQUIRER at Market! Market!, where she heard the good news. Asked if she wanted to enter politics, she said she was naturally inclined to do so. But she quickly added, "My opinions are my own. It's not influenced by my family.

De Venecia is an accomplished debater, having competed in Europe, Australia and the United States. "She's extremely bright," said her proud uncle House Speaker De Venecia.

De Venecia is now employed at the Sycip, Salazar, Hernandez and Gatmaitan Law Office.

Eighth placer Bernardo, who went to the high court to await the results, described the topnotcher as "very driven."

A 2005 valedictorian of Ateneo, Bernardo said he knew De Venecia well because they participated in meetings of law students and were closely watched as likely candidates to top the bar exams.

"I am not surprised she topped the tests. Our friends have always speculated that it was either one of us who would get it," said Bernardo, 25.

## Torturous preparation

Although it was a glorious day for Bernardo and Tanquilut, the third placer who is also an Atenean, both said they were only too happy that what they considered to be "torturous" preparation, tests, and a seven-month wait, were over.

"I am relieved it's finished, it's actually a bonus," Tanquilut said.

Tanquilut was also at the Court of Appeals compound for the test results. The 25-year-old lawyer works as a paralegal at the Romulo Mabanta Buenaventura De los Angeles & Sayoc Law Office.

"It's so weird. I'm just relieved that I passed," said Tanquilut as the thought of having landed in the top 10 was just beginning to sink in. She said she was the first lawyer in her family.

Bernardo, wearing an Ateneo blazer and carrying a bottle of red wine, described himself as a "true-blue Atenean." He said his parents were both retired bankers "whose time is dedicated to taking care of me and my brother."

He said he planned to stay on at the Poblador Law Office where he works as a paralegal.

"I will stay there until I figure out what to do with my life," he said.

## Record high passing rate

This year's passing rate was 27.2 percent of 5,610 examinees, a record high.

Before last year, the highest number of examinees in the bar examinations was 5,349 in the 2003 bar, with the next highest recorded in the 2004 exams with 5,249.

The lowest number of examinees recorded in the last four years was in 2001 where only 3,849 law graduates took the bar, arguably one of the toughest—if not the toughest—licensure examination in the country.

Only 4,659 examinees took the 2002 bar exams.

A bar candidate passes the examination with a general average of 75 percent in all subjects without falling below 50 percent in any subject.

## 5th place at Italiani's

Fifth placer Lucila, 25, was at Italianni's restaurant when the results were announced. She was celebrating the birthday of a brother. Currently employed as in-house counsel for the Asian division of a New York-based multinational company, she planned to leave for the United States on Sunday but said she might delay her flight.

The bar results were supposed to be displayed at the Supreme Court using an LCD projector.

But at around 8:30 p.m., sheets of paper containing the list of successful examinees were instead passed around, prompting a commotion.

# Faster economic . . .

From page A1

the Philippines, a predominantly Roman Catholic country, is growing at around 2 million a year.

The Philippine economy's 6-percent expansion in 2004 was the strongest in 15 years, with gross domestic product (GDP) having grown by an average of around 3.5 percent from 1987 to 2004.

The projected growth of the Philippine economy is higher than the expected 5-percent GDP growth of Thailand but lower than the 5.5-percent growth projected for Indonesia and Malaysia.

The World Bank said Philippine prospects for higher growth this year hinged on a rebound in the agriculture and export sectors.

## La Niña

"The La Niña phenomenon (characterized by heavier than normal rains), which began early in 2006, is expected to revive food production," the bank said, adding that stronger export growth in recent months pointed to a better performance for the sector for the entire year.

The bank said an improvement in the government's finances, which is needed to spur growth, would depend on Manila's ability to collect an additional P68 billion this year from a higher sales tax.

In February, the national budget deficit reached P25 billion, way below the target of P27.2 billion.

The Philippines, Asia's most active issuer of sovereign debt after Japan, hopes to cut its budget deficit this year to P125 billion, or 2.1 percent of GDP, from last year's P146.5 billion, or 2.8 percent of GDP.

## Impact of oil prices

Taking a regional perspective, The World Bank said East Asia's emerging economies were expected to grow at a slower 6.6 percent in 2006 after 6.8 percent last year as the impact of high oil prices continues.

Last year's growth figure was itself lower than the 7.5 percent recorded in 2004, also because of the dampening effect of rising crude prices, the bank said.

Crude prices went on a relentless spike last year, hitting a record high of $70.85 a barrel in August, driven by robust demand in the world's major economies and hurricane damage in the United States. Prices have since eased to the $60 territory but is still about 50 percent higher than at the end of 2004.

"High oil prices clearly played a large role in moderating growth in 2005," it said. "While the report assumes that oil prices have now peaked, they are still expected to average 10 percent higher in 2006 than in 2005, so that some of the adverse impact is still likely to be playing out in 2006."

## 'Real surprise'

Despite the slower growth projections, the World Bank said the "real surprise" was that the highest real oil prices in 25 years had not inflicted more damage on the region.

"World GDP is growing rapidly but importantly for most developing countries, the volume of trade growth in the world has been very strong," the bank's chief regional economist Homi Kharas said in a video conference from Sydney.

The bank was also encouraged by the region's efforts to address the impact of higher crude prices, most notably by cutting back on costly fuel subsidies and tightening monetary policy last year.

Reducing fuel subsidies will strengthen fiscal positions and also encourage consumers to get used to having to pay more for oil, the World Bank said. *With reports by Reuters and AFP*

## BAR TOPNOTCHERS 1913-2004

### PRE-WAR

| Year | Name | School | Ave. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1913 | Manuel Roxas | UP | 92 |
| 1914 | Manuel Goyena | MLQU | 93 |
| 1915 | Fran. Villanueva, Jr. | UP | 90 |
| 1916 | Paulino Gullas | UP | 93 |
| 1917 | Felipe Ysmael | UP | 92 |
| 1918 | Alejo Labrador | UP | 87 |
| 1919 | Gregorio Anonas | PLS | 87 |
| 1920 | Adolfo Brillantes | Escuela de Derecho | 84.1 |
| 1921 | Amando L. Velilla | UP | 89.1 |
| 1923 | Roque Desquitado | UP | 90.9 |
| 1924 | Roberto Concepcion | UST | 89.1 |
| 1925 | Rafael Dinglasan | UP | 91.1 |
| 1926 | Eugeniano Perez | PLS | 88.1 |
| 1927 | Cesar Kintanar | UP | 87.7 |
| 1928 | Filomeno B. Pascual | PLS | 90.3 |
| 1929 | Lorenzo Sumulong | UP | 92.5 |
| 1930 | Tecla San Andres | UP | 89.4 |
| 1931 | Jose Leuterio | UP | 89.4 |
| 1932 | Hermenegildo Atienza | UP | 93 |
| 1933 | Lope C. Quimbo | UM | 92.45 |
| 1934 | Marciano P. Catral | PLS | 89.7 |
| 1935 | Enrique Estrellado | UP | 91.7 |
| 1936 | Diosdado Macapagal | UST | 89.85 |
| 1937 | Cecilia A. Muñoz | UP | 92.6 |
| 1938 | Emmanuel Pelaez | UM | 91.3 |
| 1939 | Ferdinand E. Marcos | UP | 92.35 |
| 1940 | Claudio Teehankee | Ateneo | 94.35 |
| 1941 | Emmet P.D. Shea | UP | 90.2 |

### WAR TIME

| Year | Name | School | Ave. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1944 | Jovito R. Salonga | UP | 95.3 |
|  | Jose W. Diokno | Special | 95.3 |

### POST-WAR

| Year | Name | School | Ave. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Aug. '46 | Gregoria Cruz | UP | 92.25 |
| Nov. '46 | Pedro Yap | UP | 91.7 |
| 1947 | Aumarfina A. Melencio | UP | 93.85 |
| 1948 | Manuel G. Montecillo | FEU | 95.5 |
| 1949 | Anacleto C. Mañgaser | PLS | 95.85 |
| 1950 | Carolina C. Griño | Special | 92.05 |
| 1951 | Vicente R. Acsay | UM | 92.25 |
| 1952 | Pedro Samson C. Animas | UP | 94.25 |
| 1953 | Leonardo A. Amores | UM | 94.05 |
| 1954 | Florenz D. Regalado | SBC | 96.7 |
| 1955 | Tomas P. Matic, Jr. | FEU | 90.55 |
| 1956 | Francisco C. Catral | SBC | 90.2 |
| 1957 | Gregorio R. Castillo | UP | 89.15 |
| 1958 | Manuel G. Abello | UP | 89.25 |
| 1959 | Agustin O. Benitez | FEU | 89.2 |
| 1960 | Ismael Andres | MLQU | 91.7 |
| 1961 | Avelino V. Cruz | SBC | 90.95 |
| 1962 | Deogracias G. Eufemio | UP | 90.8 |
| 1963 | Cornelio C. Gison | AdeMU | 86.35 |
| 1964 | Jesus P. Castelo | SBC | 88.4 |
| 1965 | Victor S. de la Serna | SBC | 89.8 |
| 1966 | Roberto San Jose | UP | 90.6 |
| 1967 | Rodolfo D. Robles | SBC | 89.6 |
| 1968 | Oscar B. Glovasa | UB | 87.45 |
| 1969 | Ronaldo B. Zamora | UP | 87.3 |
| 1970 | Romulo D. San Juan | UP | 87.5 |
| 1971 | Henry R. Villarica | UP | 92.4 |
| 1972 | Januario B. Soller, Jr. | AdeMU | 87.13 |
| 1973 | Vicente R. Solis | AdeMU | 90.3 |
| 1974 | Arturo D. Brion | AdeMU | 91.65 |
| 1975 | Nicanor B. Padilla, Jr. | UE | 86.7 |
| 1976 | Enrique Y. Teehankee | UP | 90.8 |
| 1977 | Virgilio B. Gesmundo | AdeMU | 91.8 |
| 1978 | Cosme D. Rosell | UP | 92.48 |
| 1979 | Gregorio M. Batiller, Jr. | AdeMU | 91.4 |
| 1980 | Rafael R. Lagos | UP | 89.75 |
| 1981 | Irene Ragodon-Guevarra | AdeMU | 90.95 |
| 1982 | Ray C. Espinosa | AdeMU | 90.95 |
| 1983 | Manuel Antonio J. Teehankee | AdeMU | 91.4 |
| 1984 | Richard M. Chiu | AdeMU | 92.85 |
| 1985 | Janette Susan L. Peña | UP | 89.4 |
| 1986 | Laurence L. Go | AdeMU | 88.6 |
| 1987 | Mario P. Victoriano | AdeMU | 88.55 |
| 1988 | Maria Yvette O. Navarro | UP | 88.12 |
| 1989 | Gilberto Eduardo | UP | 86.19 |
|  | Gerardo C. Teodoro, Jr. |  |  |
| 1990 | Aquilino L. Pimentel III | UP | 89.85 |
| 1991 | Joseph P. San Pedro. | AdeMU | 89.95 |
| 1992 | Jayme A. Sy, Jr. | AdeMU | 87 |
| 1993 | Anna Leah Fidelis T. Castañeda | AdeMU | 88.32 |
| 1994 | Francisco Noel R. Fernandez | UP | 89.2 |
| 1995 | Leonor Y. Diedican | UP | 91.2 |
| 1996 | Patrcia-ann T. Progalidad | UP | 90.6 |
| 1997 | Ma. Cecilia H. Fernandez | UP | 90.02 |
| 1998 | Abuel, Janet B. | BCF | 91.80 |
| 1999 | Edwin Enrile | ADMU | 88.5 |
|  | Florin Hilbay | UP | 88.5 |
| 2000 | Eliseo Zuñiga Jr. | UP | 90.6 |
| 2001 | Rodolfo Ma. Ponferrada | UP | 93.8 |
| 2002 | Arlene Maneja | UST | 92.9 |
| 2003 | Aeneas Eli Diaz | ADMU | 88.53 |
| 2004 | January Sanchez | UP | 87.45 |

## IN THE KNOW

### 44 UP topnotchers

- Almost half of the bar first-placers from 1913 to 2004 were graduates of the University of the Philippines (44 out of 91). UP was followed by Ateneo de Manila University (18) and San Beda College (6).
- No bar examinations were held in 1942 and 1943 because of World War II.
- Three first-placers became presidents of the Philippines: Manuel Roxas, Diosdado Macapagal and Ferdinand Marcos.
- There have been two cases of a tie in the history of the bar. The first was in 1944, when Jovito Salonga of UP and Jose W. Diokno got the top score of 95.3. Diokno's case was remarkable, because he took and topped the bar as a law undergraduate. The second was in 1999, with ADMU's Edwin Enrile and UP's Florin Hilbay getting a rating of 88.5.
- The highest score ever achieved in the bar exams was 96.7 by Florenz Regalado of San Beda in 1954.
- Other schools in the topnotchers' list are Manuel L. Quezon University, Far Eastern University, University of the East, Baguio Colleges Foundation, Philippine Law School, University of Manila, Escuela de Derecho and University of Sto. Tomas.
- UST opened in 1734 the first law school in the Philippines—the Institute of Civil Law—which conducted in Spanish its training in civil law, canon law and natural law.
- In 1899, Felipe Calderon became the first Filipino to found a law school when he established the Escuela de Derecho de Manila, now called the Manila Law College.
- Based on statistics from the Integrated Bar of the Philippines and the Supreme Court, there were about 45,000 lawyers in the Philippines as of 2004.

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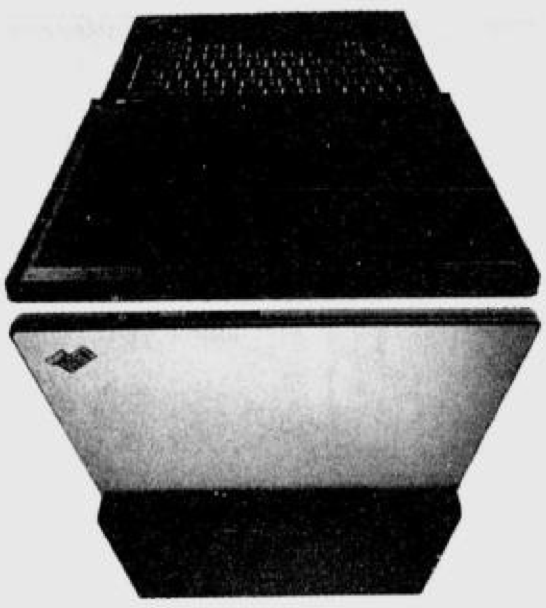

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# Cebu rejects Cha-cha signature bid

**By Jhunnex Napallacan**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

CEBU CITY—EXCLUDE CEBU PROVINCE FROM the people's initiative campaign to change the Constitution.

The Cebu Municipal Mayors League (CMML), with the support of Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia, will release a manifesto opposing the campaign, as its members believe it is illegal and unconstitutional.

The plan to come up with a manifesto was decided on Tuesday night during a meeting attended by Garcia and 33 of the 52 mayors of the province.

Also present was former Gov. Pablo Garcia, father of the incumbent governor.

The governor was not also pleased upon hearing the complaints of most of the mayors that they were being bypassed by the Municipal Interior and Local Government (MILG) officers, who reportedly initiated the signature campaign during the synchronized barangay assemblies on Saturday.

Dalaguete Mayor Ronald Alan Cesante, CMML President, said he personally favored the people's initiative but he would bow to the sentiments of the majority of the Cebu mayors.

Cesante, however, said that while the CMML would be opposing the people's initiative, they would make it clear in their manifesto that they would continue to support President Macapagal-Arroyo.

He said the manifesto would be crafted by lawyer Pablo John Garcia's, the governor's brother and consultant, and provincial board member Victor Maambong.

Cesante said the manifesto was expected to be released today.

Lawyer Garcia said the document would be based on the serious legal challenges to the people's initiative campaign following the decision of the Supreme Court, in the case of Santiago vs Commission on Elections. The High Court then declared that the enabling law for the people's initiative campaign was insufficient.

Besides, lawyer Garcia said, the signature drive might not be good for the President because of the impression that it was being initiated by her allies so she could stay in power until 2010.

He said there was no need to change the Constitution just to let the President stay in power, pointing out that she is the legal president and she can finish her term until 2010 without amending the Charter.

Lawyer Garcia clarified that the governor supports Charter change, but through legal and constitutional means.

NO TO PIG!
AKBAYAN
initiative
AYOKO PIG!

**PROTESTERS** wear masks to denounce efforts to gather millions of signatures to force a revision of the Constitution. BULLIT MARQUEZ/AP

# Dirty water kills boy in town near landslide site

**By Jani Arnaiz**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

ANAHAWAN, SOUTHERN LEYTE—A 9-month-old boy died and 58 others in this town fell ill from diarrhea that health authorities attributed to contaminated water.

Lani Tomol, a nurse at the Anahawan District Hospital, said the baby was declared dead on arrival at the hospital on Saturday, the same day most of the diarrhea cases were first reported.

Tomol said the number of cases brought to the 25-bed hospital rose to 59 on Wednesday from 53 the previous day. She, however, said 16 were released on Wednesday noon.

According to her, Ernesto Cahoy, the hospital chief, found that of the number of patients, 24 children were suffering from amoebiasis, while others had severe gastroenteritis.

Gov. Rosette Lerias told the INQUIRER that the town's water supply got contaminated because of a leak in the reservoir of the town's water system.

The leak has since been repaired, she said.

Lerias said she had already sent medicines to the town with specific instructions that they be given for free.

The governor said that although most of the patients came from Anahawan, a few diarrhea cases were reported in the rest of the Pacific towns.

The Pacific towns are the municipalities of St. Bernard, San Juan, Anahawan, Hinundayan, Hinunangan and Silago.

Confined at the district hospital were 44 diarrhea cases from Anahawan, eight from St. Bernard, two from San Juan, two from Hinundayan, one from Hinunangan and two from Silago.

Lerias said there was no need to declare a state of calamity in Anahawan because the diarrhea incidents there had already been addressed.

## ROUNDUP

### Hostage-taker shot dead

DARAGA, Albay—Soldiers and policemen shot and killed a fugitive charged with attempted homicide several years ago when he resisted arrest and took hostage a retired policeman in Barangay Bascaran here on Monday. The suspect, Alberto Bulawan, who was reportedly armed with a .38 cal. revolver, returned to his village to attend the wake of a relative, but his presence was tipped off to the nearby Army detachment. He was killed after reportedly seizing retired SPO1 Vicente Mirabel. Bulawan's family has accused the lawmen of overkill. *Edgar Alejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

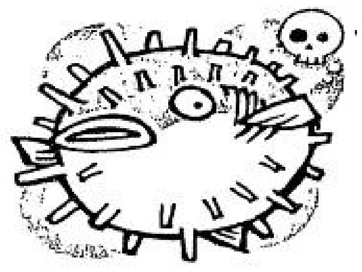
### MILF peace monitor ambushed

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A member of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) peace monitoring team was shot and wounded in an ambush in Isulan town in Sultan Kudarat on Tuesday. Supt. Danilo Posadas, town police chief, said Abdulbasit Pangawilan, alias Datu Ali, was headed for Laguilayan Village on a motorbike when he was attacked. The victim was hit in the belly and brought to the hospital in Isulan where he was declared out of danger. Two suspects, Tumano Lumabas and Gilbert Manganaan, have been arrested. Police have yet to determine the motive for the ambush. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

### Ex-Albay mayor yields

MALINAO, Albay—After hiding for more than five years, a former mayor of this town, who was found guilty of usurpation of authority, surrendered to local police authorities on Monday. Salvador Moll, a three-term mayor at the time of his conviction, disappeared in 2001 when the Supreme Court affirmed a decision handed down by Judge Mamerto Buban Jr. of the Tabaco Regional Trial Court Branch 18, who found him guilty of a case filed by then Mayor Remy Clavecillas. Moll received a jail sentence of six months to one year and nine months. He said he was giving up so that he could have peace of mind. He is now detained at the provincial jail. *Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### 5 downed by puffer fish



BACACAY, Albay—Five persons, including two children, were hospitalized after eating puffer fish, locally known as "*butete*," on Sunday night in Barangay Sogod here. The suspected food poisoning cases were identified as Arjay Beruela, 7, Aldrin Beruela, 11, Bienvinido Barbacena, 50, and Magdalena Barbacena, who were brought to the St. Michael Hospital here; and Santos Bataller, who was taken to the Ziga Memorial and District Hospital in nearby Tabaco City. They all experienced dizziness and vomiting, a few minutes after eating "*pikadilyong butete*." *Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

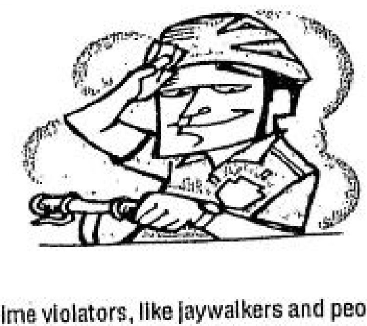
### Cop shot dead; pa wounded

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—A quarrel over a woman led to the killing of a policeman and the wounding of his father inside a girlie bar in Nasugbu, Batangas on Monday night. Chief Supt. Prospero Noble, Calabarzon police director, identified the fatality as SPO2 Mario Rotairo, 40, of the Pasay City police's Special Operations Group. Noble said Rotairo and his father Eustaquio, 76, both of Barangay Kaytitinga, Alfonso, Cavite, were drinking with three other men inside Triple J Videokebar in Barangay Kaylaway when Rotairo and a companion had a heated argument over a guest relations officer. An irked security guard, Apolinario Lumbres, a former Philippine Constabulary soldier, shot Rotairo in the face with an M-14 rifle. Another suspect fired at the older Rotairo with a .45 cal. pistol in the shoulder. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### Hacking suspect found dead

TABACO CITY—A man hacked dead his former partner inside a shanty here on Sunday night, police said. Jonalyn Bisco, 24, was found lying in a pool of blood at around 7 p.m. Sunday inside the hut she had shared with her new partner, Edison Buella, 21. Bisco died from hack wounds in the chest, said Supt. Renato Bataller, police chief. A bolo found at the crime scene led to the identity of the suspect, Mamerto Berillo, 26, but police found him the next day hanging with a rope around his neck. *Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

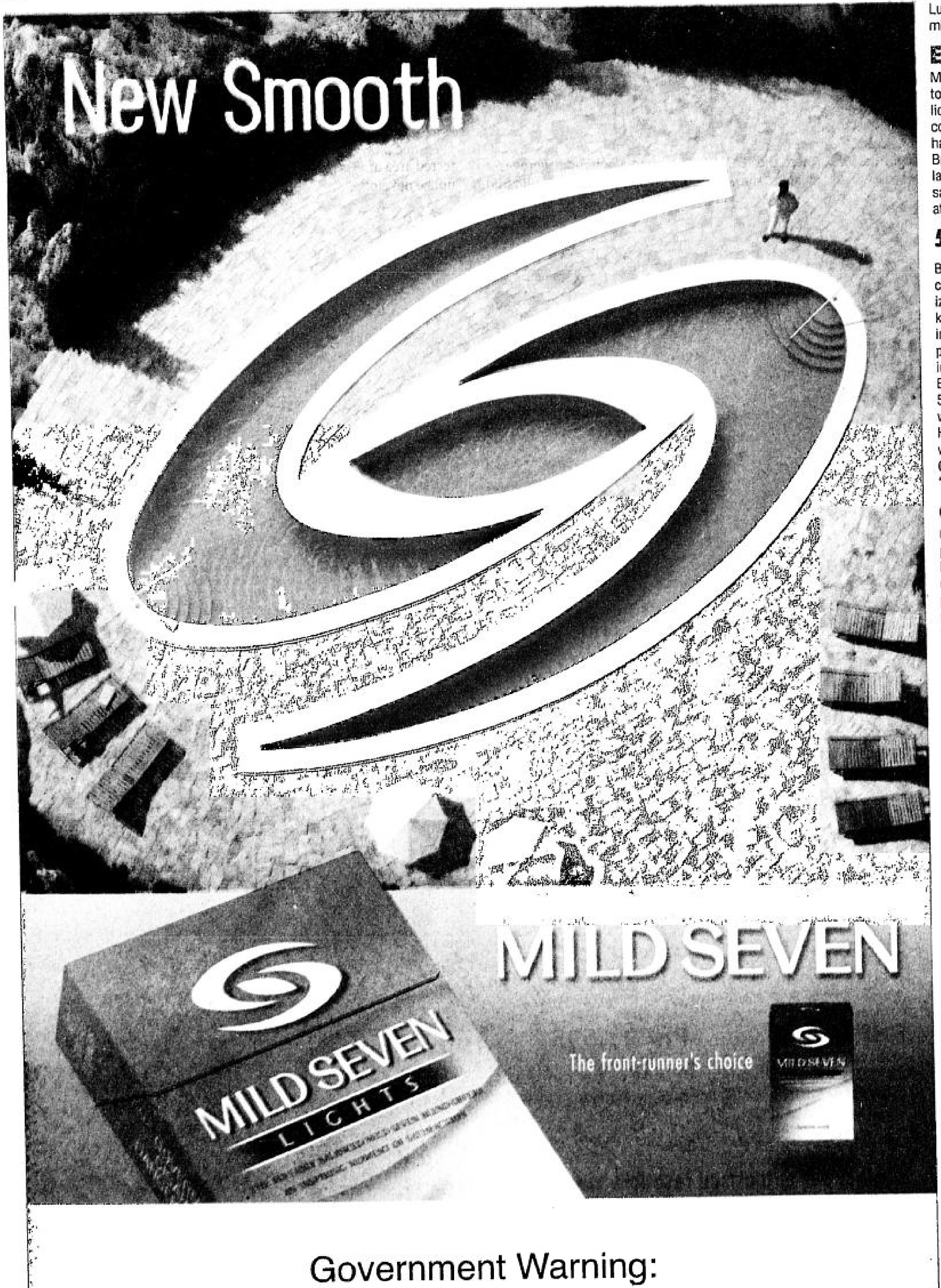
### Police back-ups hired



LEGAZPI CITY—With a population of 200,000 and growing, this city has only 108 policemen—dramatically below the average police-to-population ratio of 1:1,000 in Bicol. Thus, the city government has organized and trained 100 public safety officers (PSOs) who are tasked with assisting the police in patrolling the streets and directing traffic. The bicycle-riding PSOs are duty bound to enforce ordinances and arrest petty crime violators, like jaywalkers and people smoking in public places. As of November last year, the PSOs had arrested 176 violators of the antismoking ordinance. Supt. Robinson Ortega, former city police chief and now PSO head, said the council had allocated P3 million for the salaries of the PSOs. *Edgar Alejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### Bontoc bishop to be installed

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Bishop-elect Rodolfo Beltran, parish priest of Aparri, Cagayan, will be installed as bishop of Bontoc, Mt. Province, on May 31, a week after his ordination as bishop by Fernando Feloni, the new papal nuncio to the Philippines. Beltran, who holds a Doctor of Philosophy degree, is the eighth Cagayano prelate to become a bishop. A former parish priest of Tuguegarao, Beltran is known for his home study program for the Negrito people, fishermen, housewives, carpenters and vendors in the province. The program is jointly undertaken with the Cagayan State University. *Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



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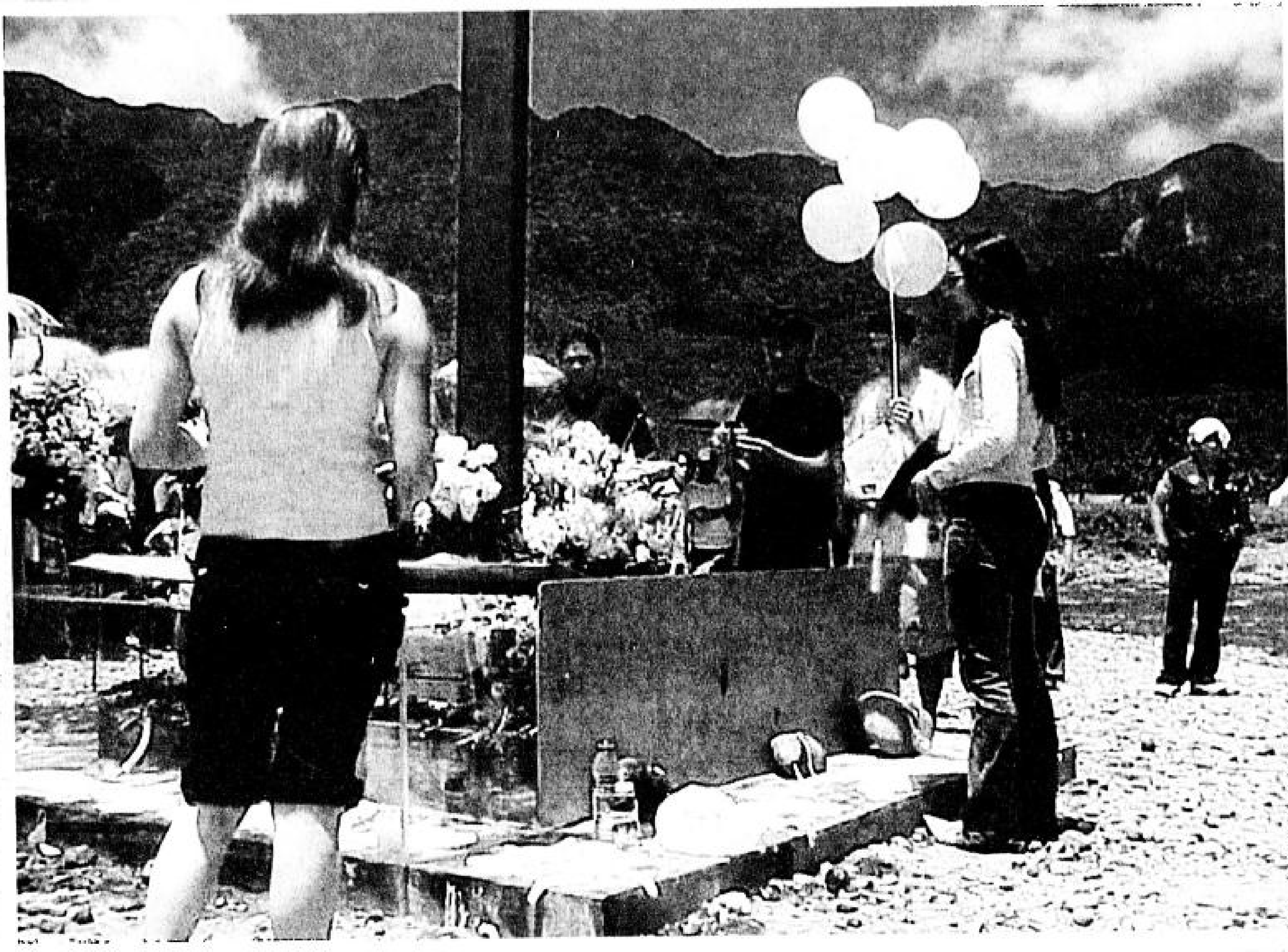


JANI ARNAIZ/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

**GRADUATION DAY**
Children who lost their parents to the landslide that buried Guinsaugon Village in St. Bernard, Southern Leyte, lay their graduation caps on the mound of earth where their homes used to be.

# Child laborers found in every 3 homes in RP, says DOLE study

**By Carla P. Gomez**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

BACOLOD CITY—WORKING CHILDren, aged between 5 and 17 years old, can be found in three out of 10 Philippine households, Luzviminda Padilla, labor undersecretary for workers' protection and welfare, said here yesterday.

This means that at least 3 million Philippine households have children who are working, Padilla said in a speech during yesterday's National Policy Conference for the Protection and Development of Child Laborers in the Sugar Industry.

The meeting was sponsored by the Laura Vicuña Foundation Inc. of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians.

Of the country's 25 million children aged between 5 and 17, 16 percent, or at least 4 million are working, Padilla said. She cited key findings of the 2001 Philippine Survey on Children, the latest study on child labor in the country.

Child labor is largely a rural and agricultural phenomenon, Padilla said.

Almost 3 million, or 70 percent of the working children, are found in rural areas. About 2.1 million, or 53 percent of the rural child laborers, are in agriculture, hunting and forestry; and nearly 2 million, or 49.5 percent, worked in farms.

Child work is usually family work, Padilla said. Nearly 60 percent, or 2.4 million, are unpaid workers in family-operated farms or businesses, she pointed out.

At least 30,000 children who work away from home, the survey said.

A total of 2.4 million working children were exposed to biological hazards, such as viruses, bacteria and parasites; physical hazards, such as noise and extreme temperatures; and chemical hazards like dust, liquid, mist and fumes, Padilla said.

A total of 1.08 million children working were reported to be engaged in heavy physical work, 830,000 said they found their work risky or dangerous, 940,000 had work-related injuries, and 750,000 said they had work-related illness.

Padilla said 1.3 million of the working children were not attending school. Among those in school, 600,000 had difficulty catching up with their lessons, she added.

"Child labor in the Philippines is widespread, but it is more prevalent in agriculture, including in the sugar industry where the (DOLE) is keeping a tight watch," she said.

The situation is contrary to the Minimum Age Convention of 1973, or International Labor Organization Convention No. 138, that the Philippines ratified in 1998 and which prescribed that only children beyond 15 years old should be allowed to work, she admitted.

Children over 15 years old but under 18 may be allowed to work if the employment is not likely to endanger their health safety and morals, Padilla said.

The national policy for minimum age only allows two exceptions: Work for a parent or a legal guardian, and work for the production of public entertainment or public information, in which case a work permit from the DOLE is needed.

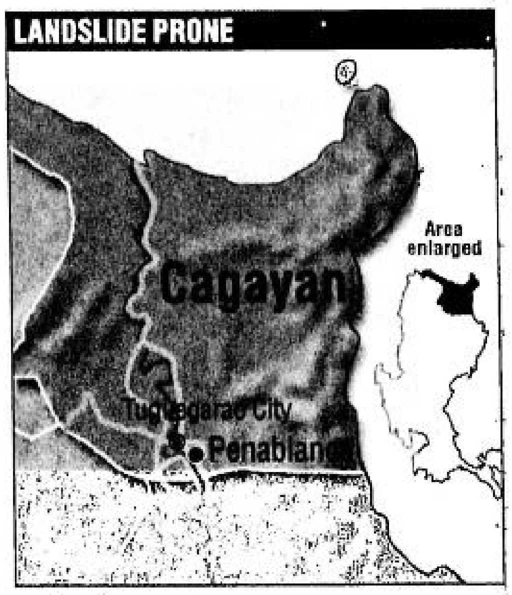
Children of any age, however, are strictly prohibited from performing for advertisements that promote alcoholic beverages, tobacco and violence, Padilla said.

In the sugar industry, she said, to augment family income, children were either put to work by their parents or took farm jobs on their own.

# Council declares state of calamity in villages tagged landslide prone

**By Estanislao Caldez**
*PDI N. Luzon Bureau*

LANDSLIDE PRONE



PEÑABLANCA, CAgayan—The municipal council declared this town under a state of calamity on Tuesday as local officials continued the evacuation of 128 families in two villages found to be prone to erosion and landslides.

Acting Mayor Maria Victoria Saquing said the declaration would give them access to the municipality's calamity funds to help residents who would be evacuated from Barangays Buyun and Sisim.

Last week, policemen and personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Social Welfare and Development started relocating 48 families in Buyun and 80 families in Sitio Dabba in Sisim.

## Erosion

The villages are at the foot of a hill whose limestone cover has started to erode, said Rex Taylan, a senior geologist of the regional Mines and Geosciences Bureau. Some sections of the villages, he said, were observed to be sinking.

Saquing said several residents moved to the houses of their relatives in nearby villages, while others were housed in nearby elementary and high school buildings.

She said a suitable relocation area could not be found for the residents as most sections of the town had been declared a protected area and could not be developed.

## Advise

Taylan said the MGB started monitoring the landslide-prone sections in the two villages on March 9 and had advised residents to relocate.

A bureau report said a landslide in Buyun, a village built on a rolling-to-steep slope, covered about a hectare of land. Trees in the area have slid about three meters.

The report said residents were also hearing rumbling sounds.

Taylan said the MGB's monitoring had confirmed signs of weak soil foundation and saw cracks in several areas in the villages.

## Other sites

He said the village of Taytay in Baggao town was also being observed for signs of landslides and erosion.

The MGB, he said, was also monitoring a section of the zigzag road in San Jose Village in the town.

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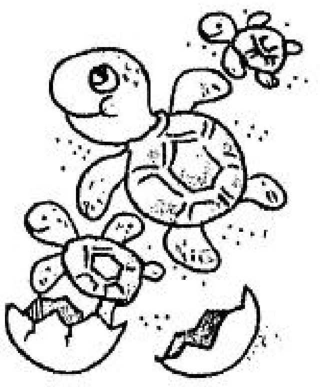
# *Hatching of turtle eggs stirs seashore village*

BURGOS, PANGASINAN—Three down, about a hundred more to go.



The eggs laid by a sea turtle in the beach of Ilio-ilio Village here on Jan. 28 have started to hatch on Tuesday.

Ava Sharon Batay-an, of the non-government Tanggol Kalikasan, said an Olive Ridley turtle (*Lepodochelys oliv acea*) had dug a nest in front of the Bantay Dagat (Sea Guard) detachment and residents had since been looking forward to the eggs' hatching.

On Tuesday, or 60 days after the nest was discovered, Antonio de Guzman, head of the Bantay Dagat, saw the first hatchling when he peeked at the nest.

"De Guzman was already worried that the eggs had not hatched so he uncovered a portion of the nest and saw one already hatched," Batay-an said.

## Vigil

Mayor Domingo Doctor, staff members of the Tanggol Kalikasan and several local government employees held a vigil on Tuesday night to monitor and document the hatching of the eggs, but only three turtles were hatched as of 1 a.m. Wednesday.

"We only knew three had been hatched because we dug the nest. We covered it [with sand] immediately," Doctor said.

He said that apart from the Olive Ridley, the Leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) had been seen in the waters off this town.

Batay-an said she would ask the help of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in looking after the hatchling properly until they were released.

Residents enclosed the turtle nest with a net so the hatchling would not venture into the sea.

The nest has also become an attraction of sorts among residents and occasional tourists.

"Definitely, the hatchling cannot be touched by anybody. People can just look at them," Batay-an said.

Doctor said they would release the hatchling to the sea after a short program on Saturday. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

# Camarines Sur to tap Japan for med jobs

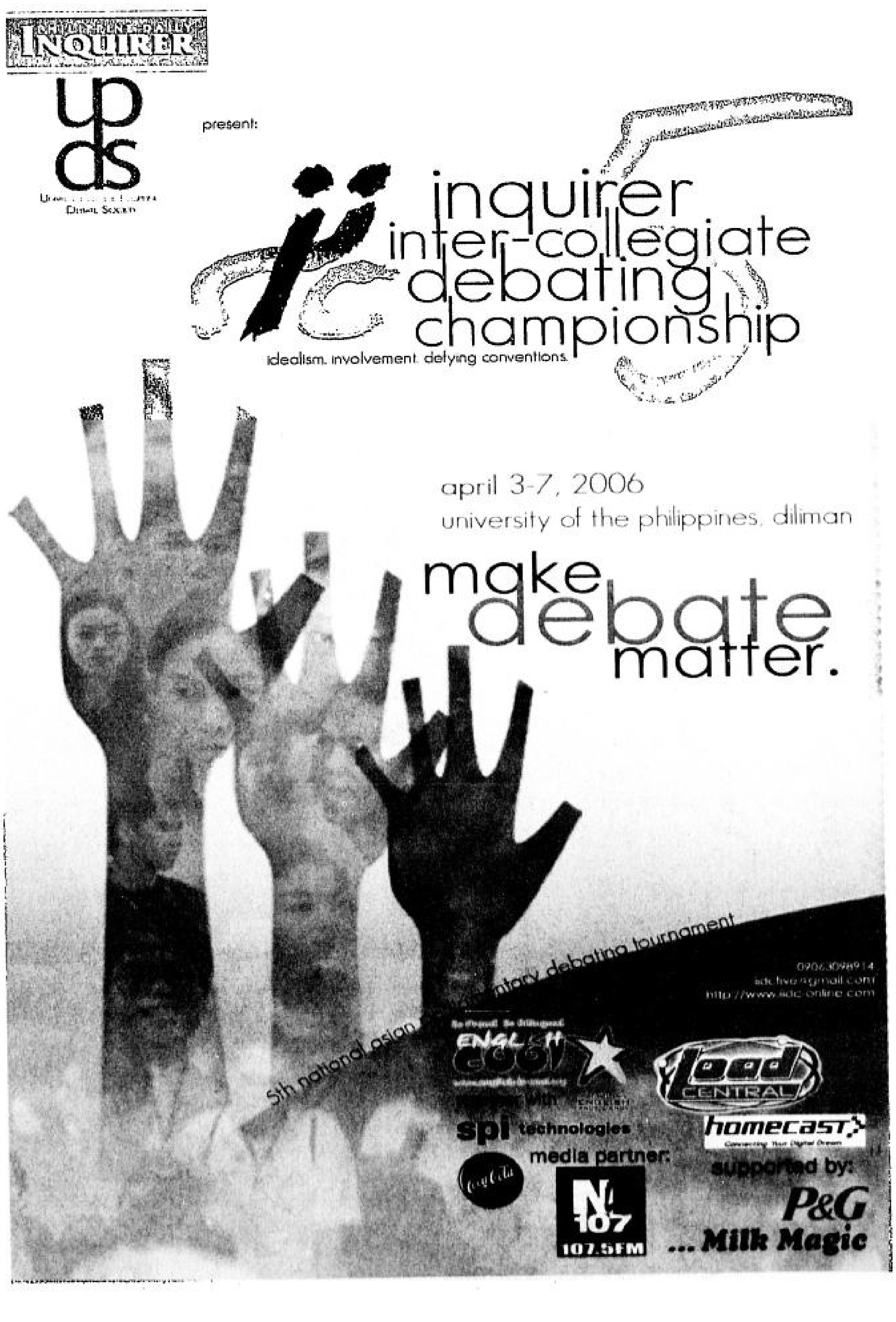
CAMARINES SUR IS ready to take advantage of the increasing demand for skilled personnel in Japan's medical services and information technology sector.

This was announced by Gov. Luis Raymund Villafuerte Jr., after he returned from a three-day trip early this month with members of the provincial board and officials of the Camarines Sur Chamber of Commerce and Industry, to the cities of Kobe and Kawanishi in Japan's Hyogo Prefecture.

"The provincial government's investments in human resources development ... are beginning to pay off," Villafuerte Jr. said in a press statement.

Camarines Sur is the first and only local government unit that offers free Level 3 and 4 Nihonggo classes to qualified applicants in and around Bicol, he said.

The governor said the provincial government also secured commitments from groups in Japan to facilitate the deployment of high-paying jobs for caregivers and nurses.



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# Chavit to sue JV for libel

**By Nelson F. Flores**

THE LAWYERS OF ILOCOS SUR Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson are preparing libel charges against San Juan Mayor Joseph Victor Ejercito for calling Singson a murderer and a coward at the Sandiganbayan last Wednesday.

In a luncheon meeting with reporters yesterday, Singson said he saw Ejercito muttering something at him during a break in the trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada, but did not actually hear what the mayor, a son of Estrada, said.

According to Singson, however, an overhead microphone and camera of the GMA 7 television network had caught Ejercito's words and the governor has instructed his lawyers to secure a copy of the videotape.

"I could see him, it looked like he was saying something to me which I could not hear. I asked, 'What? what?' but we were quite some distance from each other so I could not understand what he was saying. He was outside the courtroom, I was inside," Singson recounted to reporters in Filipino.

## 'Murderer, coward'

He said that among the lines that the television station recorded from Ejercito were: *"Mamamatay tao ka"* [Murderer] and *"Duwag, duwag, duwag!"*(Coward).

Singson said Ejercito had accused him of being a killer and tagged him as the mastermind in the killing of Oliver Chan, the provincial auditor of the Commission on Audit in Ilocos Sur.

Chan was the auditor who alleged that Singson had billions of pesos worth of unliquidated cash advances.

Singson said it was impossible that he would seek the death of Chan whose sibling was the husband of his first cousin Mila.

"It should be Erap [Estrada] who should be investigated because he and his family are the ones who would gain from Chan's death. After all, they have already made use of him to destroy my reputation," he said.

Some months after testifying in the impeachment trial, Chan was killed in an ambush in Ilocos Sur.

Singson said he would ask his lawyers to file the suit in Ilocos Sur.

"It's much more convenient for me because I am from there. His [Ejercito's] lawyers can have a holiday," he said.

The governor said his lawyers were still studying how much they would ask for damages but said the eventual figure would be substantial.

Ejercito told the INQUIRER that he was "emotionally carried away" by the sight of the grieving members of the Chan family who attended the hearing.

"I could feel what they felt. They want to do something but they cannot, because the person involved is powerful," Ejercito said.

"We must not lose track of the main issue against Singson," said Ejercito who is Estrada's son by an ex-starlet, Guia Gomez.

## 'Prove your innocence'

Singson, meanwhile, challenged Estrada to prove his claim of innocence on the plunder charges against him with evidence, noting that so far the jailed ex-President had been using his court appearances not to disprove his guilt but to merely try to discredit his (Singson's) credibility as the prosecution's main witness.

"After two days in the witness stand and months of preparation by his more than a dozen lawyers, Estrada has not yet presented any piece of document or issued any concrete testimony to back up his desperate lie of innocence," Singson said in a statement.

Instead, he was using his appearances before the Special Division to publicly discredit me, which will not do anything on his case," he said.

Singson said Estrada's attempts to discredit him would not do him any good.

"Like those who are following the plunder case, I am tired or hearing Estrada's repeated lies and his recitals of innocence without seeing any documentary proof. I am raring to see evidence from him. He should remember that when I said he was a plunderer, I produced documentary evidence. Not only that, they were supported and corroborated by other evidence and testimonies from other witnesses such as those of the more than a dozen bank officials," Singson said.

# Lawyer wants Erap reinstated if acquitted

**By Nelson F. Flores**

FORMER PRESIDENT Joseph Estrada should be reinstated in Malacañang to serve the remaining years of his term if acquitted of plunder and perjury charges, a law professor who had served in the toppled leader's administration said yesterday.

Rufus Rodriguez, who headed the Bureau of Immigration under Estrada and belongs to a battery of lawyers defending the former President in his ongoing trial at the Sandiganbayan, told reporters that under the rule of law and in the interest of justice, wrongfully accused individuals should be restored to their former status.

"Being a country that prides itself in following the rule of law, there has to be restitution if he is acquitted," Rodriguez said. 'Justice requires that upon acquittal, he should assume the presidency."

Anticipating acquittal by the Sandiganbayan, Rodriguez said, "Estrada should be allowed to serve the remaining three-and-a-half years of his term as President which was taken from him by President Macapagal-Arroyo."

Even under Labor Law, employees who have been illegally dismissed are reinstated and paid back wages, Rodriguez added.

A popular uprising ousted the 68-year-old Estrada in 2001, two-and-a-half years into what should have been a six-year-term. Ms Arroyo, who was Vice President at the time, assumed the presidency.

Estrada questioned Ms Arroyo's assumption of office on grounds he was unlawfully removed, but the Supreme Court ruled that he had "constructively resigned" and Ms Arroyo's assumption of the presidency was lawful.

Rodriguez also expressed confidence that Estrada will breeze through cross-examination by prosecutors.

"If a witness is forthright and sincere, it would be very difficult for prosecutors to grill him. They will just extract more testimonies that will debunk the allegations," he said.

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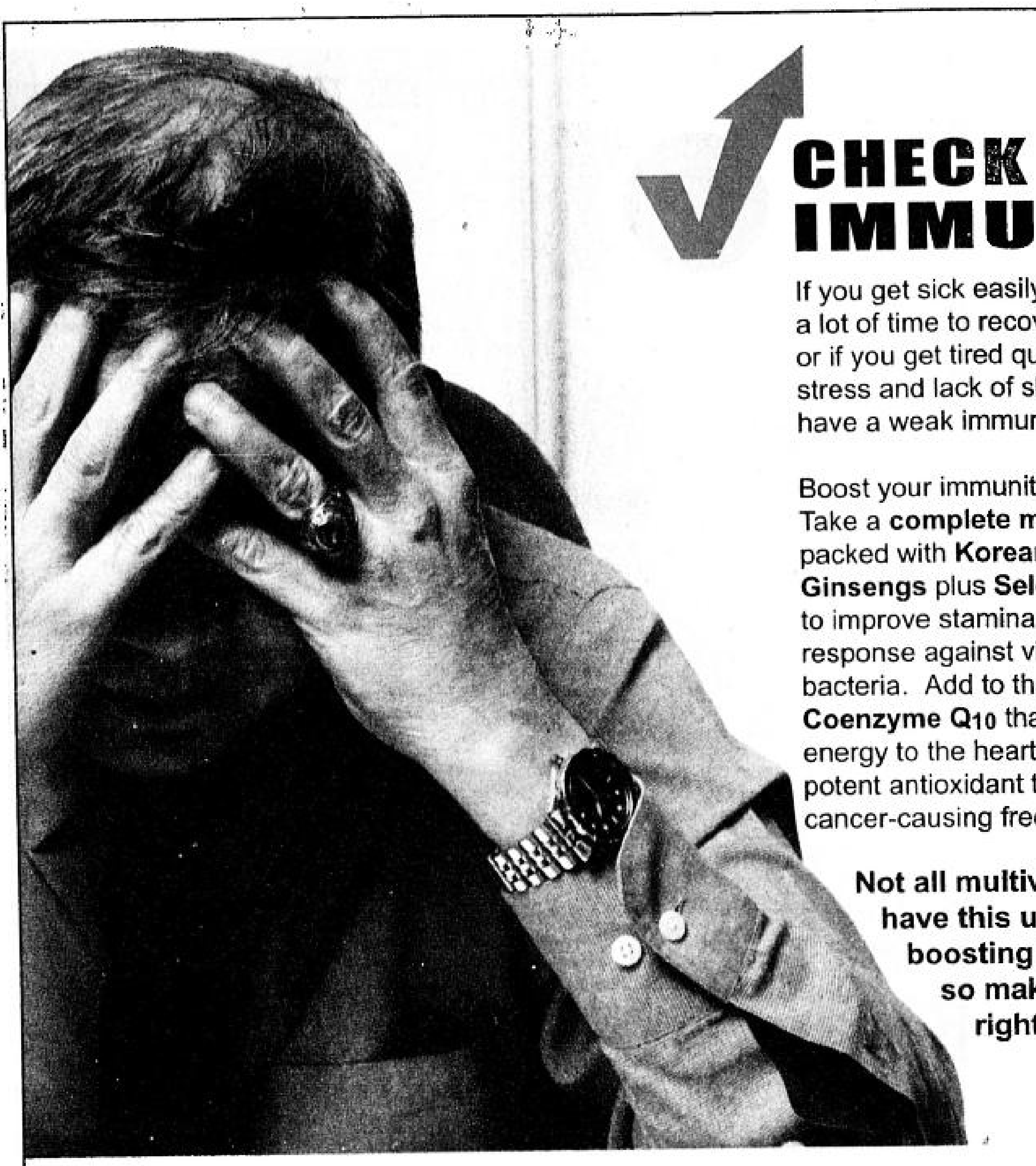

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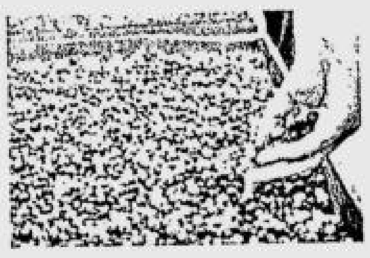


# 17 drug 'hot spots' under tight watch

**By Jocelyn R. Uy**

POLICE ARE CLOSELY MONITORING 17 alleged "drug hot spots" in the southern part of Metro Manila.

Based on records from the Southern Police District (SPD), several barangays in Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Makati, and Taguig cities and Pateros town are "seriously affected" by illegal drugs.

According to SPD Chief Wilfredo Garcia, 35 percent of Las Piñas City is a drug "hotspot" based on their information that peddlers and users of illegal drugs have holed out in seven out of its 20 barangays.

In Muntinlupa City, police are keeping a tight watch on three of its nine barangays known for drug peddling. Meanwhile, the illegal trade has also found a place in four barangays in Makati City, Garcia added.

Taguig City accounted for 11 percent of the illegal trade, with Barangay Ususan and Maharlika Village in Barangay Lower Bicutan on top of the list, records showed.

### Strategic location

"The area is a strategic location for drug pushers since it is at the periphery of commercial districts. There are also a lot of transients in the vicinity," Garcia told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Last month, the city's Drug Enforcement Unit (DEU) and the Taguig Anti-Crime and Illegal Drugs Task Force stumbled upon a drug den in Barangay Ususan.

Police had compared it to a smaller version of Pasig's shabu mart busted by police raiding teams recently.

But DEU Chief Senior Insp. Eufronio Obong told the INQUIRER yesterday that after the raid, the number of drug peddlers and users in the area have dwindled.

In Pateros, the smallest town in Metro Manila, drug users have found a home in Barangay Sta. Ana, Garcia said.

Records showed that Pasay City and Parañaque City have not registered serious cases of drug cases. But Garcia said they are closely monitoring Barangay San Dionisio in Parañaque and Malibay in Pasay, he added.

### Countermeasures

Just two weeks ago, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency swooped down on three houses on Tramo Street, Pasay and seized P75,000 worth of metamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu. They also arrested two suspected drug users during the raid.

The SPD has beefed up countermeasures against drug peddlers through the Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Council (Badac), chaired by barangay captains, Garcia said.

# Couple shot dead in front of young girl

**By DJ Yap**

BONNET-WEARING GUNMEN SHOT DEAD A woman and her live-in partner in full view of her 10-year-old daughter the other night in Quezon City.

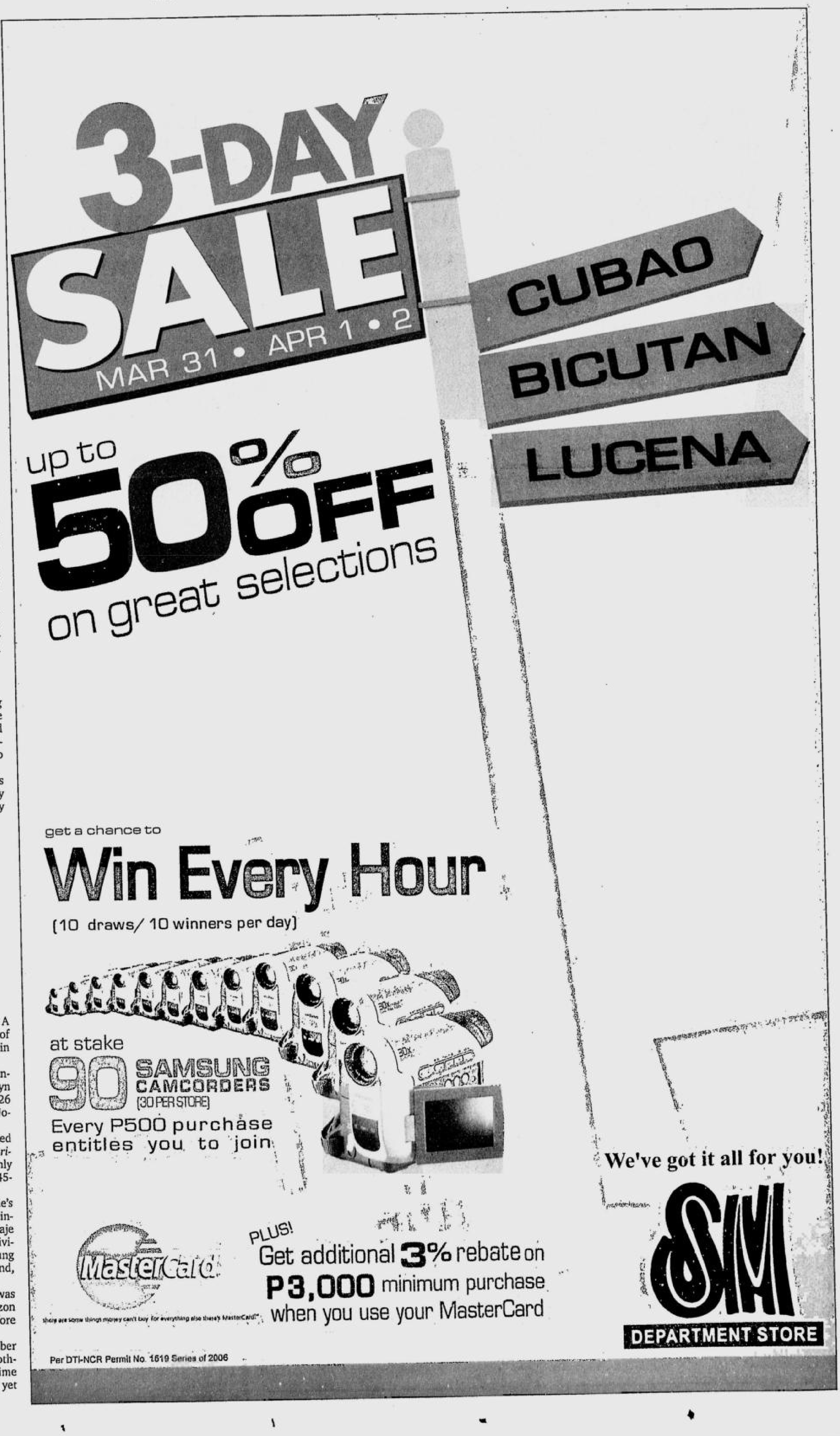
The victims were identified as Charlie Dancel, 40, alias Macaombao Banto, and Marilyn Dancel, 32, who lived with her daughter at 26 Sarmiento St., Barangay Santa Monica, Novaliches.

The police said two male suspects barged into the house, which also doubled as a *sari-sari* (variety) store, at 7:20 p.m. and suddenly peppered the victims with bullets using .45-caliber pistols.

The house used to be occupied by Charlie's first wife, who left a few months ago, said investigator-on-case SPO1 Salvador Buenviaje of the city police criminal investigation division. The men, however, spared the young girl, Marilyn's daughter by her husband, Buenviaje said.

Charlie died on the spot. Marilyn was rushed by barangay watchmen to the Quezon City General Hospital, but she died before reaching the hospital.

The police recovered several .45-caliber spent shells, as well as aluminum foil and other illegal drug paraphernalia at the crime scene. The motive for the killings has not yet been established, investigators said.



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# Binay political ally slain

By Tarra V. Quismundo

FORMER BARANGAY COUNCIL MEMber Edilmar Pancipane was shot around 5:30 p.m. Wednesday by three unidentified men.

The incident happened just hours after a daring ambush claimed the life of Chief Insp. Renato Marasigan in Pasig City.

## Close range

Pancipane, 35, of Barangay Rizal, Makati City, died in front of a commercial establishment at the corner of H. Santos and J.P. Rizal Street in Barangay Tejeros, near the Makati-Manila boundary.

He had multiple gunshot wounds. One bullet was fired at close range hitting him in the nape.

Police suspected that the unidentified gunmen used .45-caliber pistols similar to those used in the Marasigan slaying.

## Outraged

"He was a dear friend and a dependable political ally. I am outraged by this senseless killing and I believe I owe him that much to ensure that his killers are brought to justice," said Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay in a statement.

Investigation by the Makati Police Department (MPD) showed that Pancipane had just alighted from his maroon CRV and was walking towards the back of the vehicle when two of the three killers approached him from behind.

## Getaway

The gunmen stood on either side of him and placed their arms around him, police said, then shot him.

After ensuring that the victim was dead, the men boarded a passenger jeepney bound for Manila.

Recovered at the crime scene were four slugs from handguns.

MPD Homicide has yet to determine the motive for the killing.

Binay directed the MPD to keep him updated on the progress of the investigation.

# Art tilt to highlight forest park launch

By Tina G. Santos

AIMING TO INSTILL AN APPRECIATION for art and nature in children, a group of environment advocates will launch an art competition as part of the Earth Day celebration next month.

With the theme "Kabataan Para sa Kalikasan," the contest will be held at the Liwasang Kalikasan, a lightly-wooded area on the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) grounds, which will soon be transformed into an ecological showcase.

The on-the-spot painting contest, which is open to all young aspiring artists, is divided into two categories: 3 to 6 years old category and 7 to 12 grouping.

"We realize that the children are the most important, because they will be the ones to carry on what we are doing," Winner Foundation president Regina Paterno told the INQUIRER.

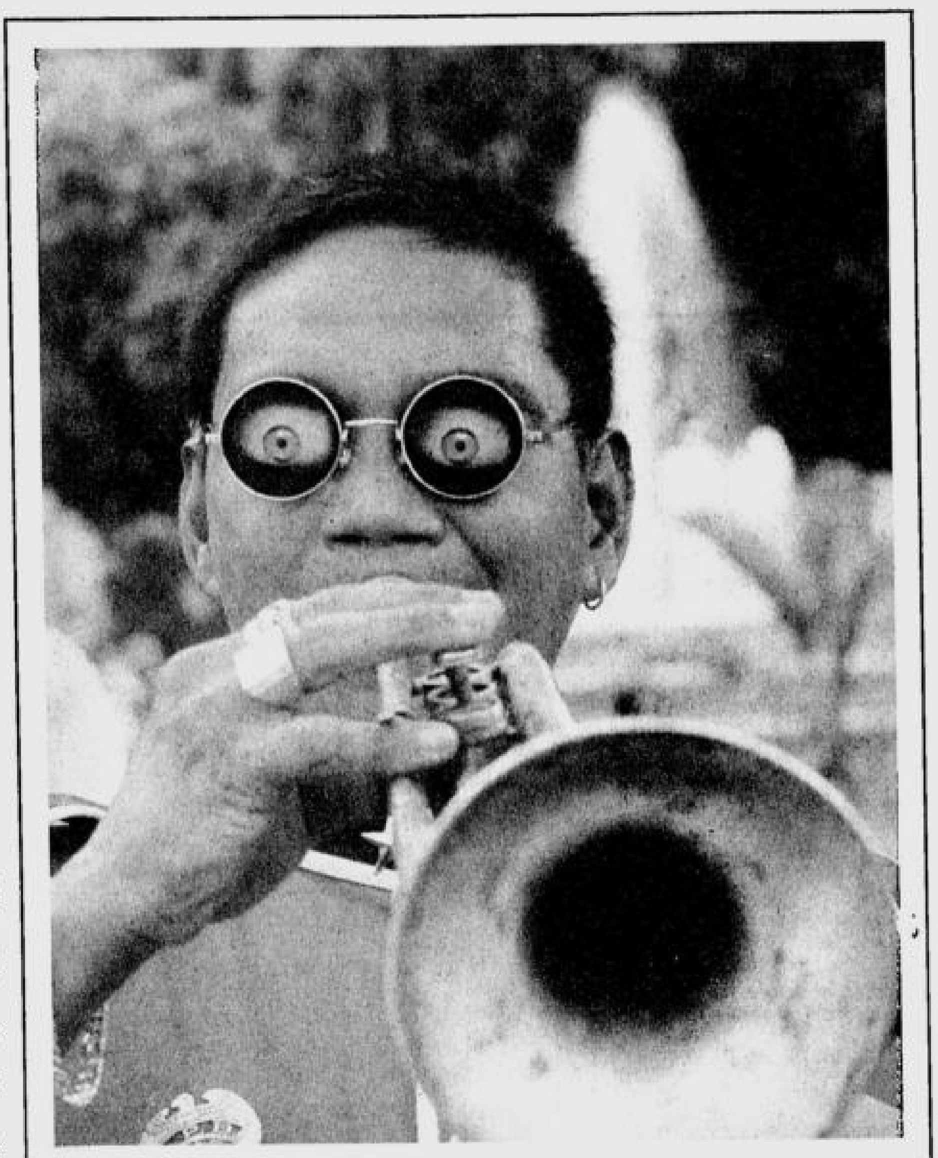
The gathering is expected to draw a larger than usual Sunday crowd to the park as the contest will coincide with the inauguration of the area .

Environment advocates are hoping the area could be used as a venue for cultural and educational activities, much like the controversial Arroceros forest park in Manila.

Winner Foundation is the caretaker of the Arroceros park.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. of April 22.

By early afternoon, judges will pick the best works in each category through a criteria that will award points for originality and "freedom of expression."



**ALL EYES**

**Passersby are not only drawn to the lively music of this cool trumpet player but also to his unusual eyeglasses.** JOAN BONDOC

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# Marikina City will soon have shelter for young detainees

By Nancy C. Carvajal

MARIKINA'S CHIEF OF POLICE SAID A SHELter for minors who break the law would soon be set up by the city government.

Senior Supt. Manuel Gaerlan made the announcement even as he gave the assurance that city law enforcers followed the provisions of the International Rights of Children even though debate on the proposed comprehensive juvenile justice legislation was still ongoing. "We are actively scouting for a place that could be used as a shelter for minors in conflict with the law," he said.

Gaerlan said meetings were being conducted with various sectors, including the judiciary, on the location of the shelter. In the meantime, he said juvenile suspects were no longer detained with adults. He cited the case of three boys aged 11, 12 and 13 who were arrested yesterday for allegedly breaking into a construction office through a window and carting away appliances and cash. The three minors allegedly stole some P2,000 worth of cash and items like carpets, blenders and kitchen ware.

Gaerlan said that instead of putting the children in jail, they would be handed over by barangay officials of Concepcion Uno to the local Department of Social Welfare and Development. "We have been protecting the rights of minors, even though the proposed juvenile justice law has yet to be approved," the city's chief of police told the INQUIRER.

The Comprehensive Juvenile Justice System Bill, sponsored by Sen. Francis Pangilinan, is now pending in the Senate. Among others, it raises criminal liability to age 12, requires separate detention facilities for children, and establishes recreation programs at the community level.

# Apartments razed in fire; ₱8 million lost

By Jocelyn R. Uy

PROPERTIES WORTH ABOUT P8 MILLION went up in smoke after a fire gutted a two-story apartment building in Parañaque City before dawn yesterday. No one was hurt in the three-hour blaze.

SF02 Felipe Caguing, arson investigator, said the blaze appeared to have been caused by a Kia Frego van on fire parked in one of the garages of the two-story building on Hernandez Compound, Narra Street, Barangay San Martin de Porres.

Witnesses told fire officials that the vehicle, owned by one of the building's tenants, Peter Yebes, was already in flames at around 3:30 a.m.

A short circuit could have triggered the fire, Caguing told the INQUIRER yesterday.

An initial investigation also revealed that the apartment building was supposed to be sold next month.

## 12 units

The blaze quickly spread to the apartment as the garage's ceiling was made of light materials, Caguing added.

It was put out at 6:19 a.m. on the fifth alarm.

Caguing said the damage reached roughly P8 million because the building housed 12 units.

Two vehicles were also destroyed in the fire.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Effective January 27, 2006, the public is hereby notified that **ALLEN SANTOS**, whose photo appears above, is no longer connected with the **SINGLE SINCE BIRTH CLUB** as founding member.

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Offers will be received, opened and tabulated in the presence of the offerors on April 26, 2006 at 3:00 p.m. at the PMO Conference Room, 6th Floor, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Interested parties may secure the sale documents for a non-refundable fee of P1,500.00 from the PMO Marketing Office.

If the Offer for Sale becomes a failure PMO reserves the right to negotiate immediately with the Offerors or any third party for the purchase of the Asset.

Interested parties are advised to deal directly with PMO.

For more information, please call Ms. Jane V. Santiago at telephone numbers 818-4733; 892-2145.

(PDI - March 30, 31 & April 1, 2006)

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Effective January 27, 2006, the public is hereby notified that **ANNA PEREZ**, whose photo appears above, is no longer connected with the **LONELY HEARTS SORORITY** as president.

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM
Provincial Agrarian Reform Office
San Francisco, Agusan del Sur

## NOTICE OF COVERAGE AND FIELD INVESTIGATION

Pursuant to Section 7 of Republic Act No. 6657, the following landowners are hereby notified that their properties hereunder listed, to wit:

| LANDOWNER | LOCATION | TITLE NO. | LOT NO. | AREA | DATE OF OCULAR INSPECTION |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Simeon Viscaya | Libertad, Bunawan | P-7201 | 6160, Pls-4 | 7.2649 | 05/09/06 |
| 2. PDIC/RB-Rosario | San Andres, Bunawan | UT | 2714, Pls-67 | 6.4893 | 05/09/06 |
| 3. Demetrio Abarquez | Patrocenio, Sta. Josefa | P-7660 | 1559, Pls-4 | 9.5448 | 05/10/06 |
| 4. PDIC/Federico Dayon/ Felix Occena | Poblacion, Veruela | | 2105, Pls-4 | 8.1181 | 05/11/06 |
| 5. PDIC/Eleonor Aumento | Poblacion, Veruela | | 1991, Pls-4 | 10.0000 | 05/11/06 |
| 6. Adolfo Caliempo/ Uldarico Duerme | Sampaguita, Veruela | | 2214, Pls-4 | 10.6902 | 05/10/06 |
| 7. PDIC/Romulo Plaza | Poblacion, Veruela | | 1990, Pls-4 | 10.0000 | 05/11/06 |
| 8. DBP/Constantino Cerezo | Magsaysay, Veruela | | 2145, Pls-4 | 9.0000 | 05/10/06 |
| TOTAL | | | | 71.1073 | |

are now covered under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program under DAR Administrative Order No 4, Series of 2005. the right to choose the area to be retained must be exercised within thirty (30) days from the date of Publication of the Notice of Coverage. Failure to exercise this right of retention within the prescribed period shall be considered as a waiver of the right/privilege to apply for exemption/exclusion or retention, nominate children as beneficiaries or submit evidence determining just compensation.

Under Executive Order No. 405, we shall request the Land Bank of the Philippines to determine the reasonable Land Value of the said properties being acquired pursuant to Section 17, of Republic Act 6657.

March 27, 2006.

(Sgd.) **MARINO M. GAYRAMON**
Provincial Agrarian Reform Officer II

(PDI--March 31, 2006)

# ₱3M worth of stolen coffee recovered

**SAFETY NET**
**This young boy uses a net barrier off the Manila Yacht Club to cross the waters after gathering sea shells from the bay.**
EDWIN BACASMAS

**By Nancy C. Carvajal**

TWO CONTAINER VANS WITH MORE THAN P3 million worth of coffee and reported stolen last Sunday in Manila, were recovered in a compound in Malabon City late afternoon the other day, the city's chief of police said.

Police Senior Supt. Moises Guevarra said the truck that carried the two 20-foot container vans filled with boxes of Nescafé Classic coffee was missing. The truck was parked inside the garage of NLT Trucking Services at the Harbor Center along on Road 10, Tondo, Manila, when it disappeared.

Acting on a tip from an informant, Guevarra sent a team to the Samlet compound, Duiog Asoge St., Tugatog. It arrived as the vans were being dismantled. He said the operation, conducted by the local police, was led by the chief of the Northern Police District Intelligence Unit, Supt. Jimili Macaraeg.

The suspects, who were dismantling the van's steel walls, scampered away leaving their tools behind when the policemen arrived, Guevarra said.

"No one was arrested in the operation. The truck, with plate number CMN-654, was not in the area. We are still conducting follow-up operations," the police chief said.

He added that the contents of one of the vans had already been unloaded.

"They used an acetylene torch to destroy one of the van's steel doors and padlock," Guevarra said.

The arrival of police prevented the opening of the second van, leaving its contents intact. Guevarra said at least eight men were seen dismantling one van and transferring its content to another vehicle.

Investigation showed that the truck's driver, Rene Sabaero, parked the loaded truck at around 5 a.m. on March 26 inside the Harbor Center. Further investigation showed that the stolen truck was allowed to leave though it was driven by an unidentified man using a pass not listed in the trucking company's gate pass receipts.

## Color coding may be suspended during school break

**By Tarra V. Quismundo**

THE NUMBER CODING SCHEME MAY BE suspended during the long school break.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Traffic Operations Center (MMDA TOC) said yesterday the governing council could decide next week on the proposal to lift temporarily the Unified Vehicular Volume Reduction Program (UVVRP) or number coding.

"The (MMDA) chair (Bayani Fernando) is proposing that, because it's summer vacation, we could lift UVVRP. A comparative study last year showed that the number of vehicles (dropped) during (the long school break) ..." said MMDA TOC Executive Director Angelito Vergel de Dios yesterday.

The study conducted by the MMDA TOC's Traffic Engineering Center found that the vehicle volume in seven major thoroughfares leading to school zones in Metro Manila dropped by an average of 29.11 percent on days when schools were closed, compared to days when there were regular classes.

The drop in number of vehicles was even more significant than the reduction resulting from the UVVRP, which was about 20 percent of the regular number of vehicles on metro roads on weekdays.

"Hopefully, the suspension would not affect the traffic situation. It would be (done) on an experimental basis so that, somehow, we could give added convenience to motorists," the traffic chief told the INQUIRER.

The UVVRP kept vehicles off the roads on certain days based on the last digit of their plate numbers. These vehicles can be out on the street only between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., called the "window hours."

The school break suspension was proposed during the meeting of the agency's policy-making body, the Metro Manila Council (MMC), Wednesday.

### Longest suspension

The suspension, if approved, could be effected from April to the first week of June or before schools reopened, said Vergel de Dios. If implemented, it would be the longest suspension so far of the traffic scheme.

Of Metro Manila's 17 municipalities, 13 are implementing the UVVRP. The cities of Marikina and Pasig have dropped the program, because of their location on the edge of the metropolitan area. Makati and Pasay, on the other hand, implement the UVVRP scheme without the "window hours."

The TOC's comparative vehicle volume study, completed in 2005, counted vehicles from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Manila's major roads such as the stretch of España Boulevard (from Nicanor Reyes Street to Mabuhay Rotonda) and A.H. Lacson (from Nagtahan to Dimasalang), both near the University of Santo Tomas campus; and Taft Avenue (between Ayala Boulevard and Padre Faura), a section lined by colleges and universities.

In Quezon City, the TOC checked vehicle volume on Marcos Highway (from Katipunan Avenue to Imelda Avenue), and Aurora Boulevard, an artery leading westbound to the University Belt in Manila and eastbound to schools in the Katipunan and Cubao areas. Also part of the study was the stretch of Edsa from Timog Avenue to Ortigas Avenue, and the Ortigas Avenue section from Edsa to E. Rodriguez.

## Search on for top Manila artists

MANILA MAYOR LITO ATIENZA TODAY opened the nomination for this year's recipients of the "Diwa ng Lahi at Patnubay ng Sining at Kalinangan" awards. The conferment of the said awards was started in 1963 by the late Mayor Antonio Villegas to give due recognition to Filipino artists who have dedicated their talents and skills to promote their respective fields of artistic endeavor.

The deadline for submission of nominations is on May 5. Nominations should be submitted to the Manila Tourism and Cultural Affairs Bureau, Room 137 of the Manila City Hall. For inquiries, call Tel. No. 525-4736.

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# Townhouse project for Taguig's teachers

**By Jocelyn R. Uy**

PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS IN Taguig City will soon have a home they can call their own.

The local government announced yesterday that it is set to build a teacher's village at a two-hectare spread in Purok 5, Barangay Bagong Tanyag.

Mayor Freddie Tinga, in a statement yesterday, said low-cost two-story townhouses with eight-unit clusters will be soon be available to qualified public school and daycare center teachers at a very minimal price.

According to Ana Santos, city's Public Information Office head, beneficiaries of the housing project will only pay a monthly amortization of P500 to P800 in ten years.

Based on the development plan, each 25-square-meter unit has two bedrooms, a kitchen, a bathroom and a living-dining area. Open courts, pocket parks, foot paths, a recreational facility, health and daycare centers will be built to spruce up the community.

"This project is favorable to us teachers since we live on a meager salary and these days are hard times," said Helen Candaza, a teacher of R. Papa High School.

Vicky Farrales, a daycare center teacher of Barangay Tipas said she was looking forward to a having a home of her own.

"It's really hard to make ends meet especially when I am just renting a place and I have other bills to pay," she said.

The teacher's village is just one of the city's urban housing project, incorporating new construction technologies that will reduce the overall cost and construction time of each building.

The housing project would mean 800 homes for Taguig's homeless by the end of the year, said Santos.

"These townhouses will not only address basic issues on squatting and peace and order problems but will give qualified residents a living, breathing and self-contained community that will serve as a model for future housing programs of the country," she added.

**WATER GIRL**
**With the absence of water pipes in their community of informal settlers along the railway in Makati City, residents get their supply from enterprising persons like this girl who sells the basic commodity in plastic bottles.** REM ZAMORA

# Never too late for MRT

**By Tina G. Santos**

UNTIL PAYMENTS ARE ON THE way, the Metro Rail Transit (MRT) stands to lose three of its stations to the Mandaluyong City government after one year.

The MRT stations—Ortigas, Shaw and Boni Avenue—were among the real properties of delinquent tax payers that were auctioned off last Friday by the city government.

"Nobody bid for the MRT property. In such case, the property will automatically be acquired by the city government," public information officer Lee Chan told INQUIRER.

However, city legal officer Eddie Fernandez, citing Chapter 6 Section 263 of the Local Government Code, explained that the MRT has one year to redeem the properties before the local government officially consolidates full ownership of the three rail stations.

"Should the MRT fail to redeem the property, the ownership thereof shall be fully vested on the local government," said Fernandez in a statement.

The MRT had not settled its financial obligations to the city for the past six years, he added. The MRT has standing arrears amounting to P1.483 billion.

# *'Butterfly Series' exhibit ends Monday*

THE "BUTTERFLY SERIES," AN exhibit of paintings using butterflies as subject by Gracia de Leon-Imao, has been extended until April 3, Monday.

The one-woman show is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the National Telecommunications Commission Building on BIR Road, East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City.

The artist is the wife of Abdulmari Imao, who received a Presidential Merit Award for the Arts last June 2005 and was the first Muslim to receive a Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) award in 1968.

Grace, who says her best works of art are her children, is the proud mother of four accomplished artists. Toym is an architect/sculptor, Outstanding Kapampangan awardee in 2004; Joey, a dentist who dabbles in painting; Juan Sajid, also a recipient of the TOYM award for sculpture in 2003, and Alkarim, a photographer.

**ARTIST Imao with her butterfly painting.** CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# Fees paid, where are jobs?

**By Tina G. Santos**

AGENTS OF THE NATIONAL BUreau of Investigation (NBI) arrested three employees of an unlicensed recruitment agency which allegedly defrauded job applicants of millions of pesos by offering them nonexistent jobs in the United Kingdom and Australia.

NBI officer in charge Nestor Mantaring idenitified the suspects as Violeta S. de Joya, Leah M. Ibañez and Aileen H. Reye, all employees of Allies Career Development Center/ Allies International Internship Program located in Ermita, Manila.

Another suspect, Rosanna de Joya, remains at large.

## Processing fees

The suspects allegedly recruited several people, among them complainants Rex Quiban, Garry Hermosilla and Karen de Leon, who were asked to pay processing and placement fees but who failed to get jobs abroad.

The complainants told NBI officials that the suspects had promised them high-paying jobs as hotel workers in the UK and Australia.

The suspects reportedly demanded and received amounts ranging from P28,000 to P147,000, representing processing and placement fees.

The victims added that they were hoping to be deployed in two to eight months as promised by the suspects. But this did not materialize, prompting them to seek NBI assistance.

## No license

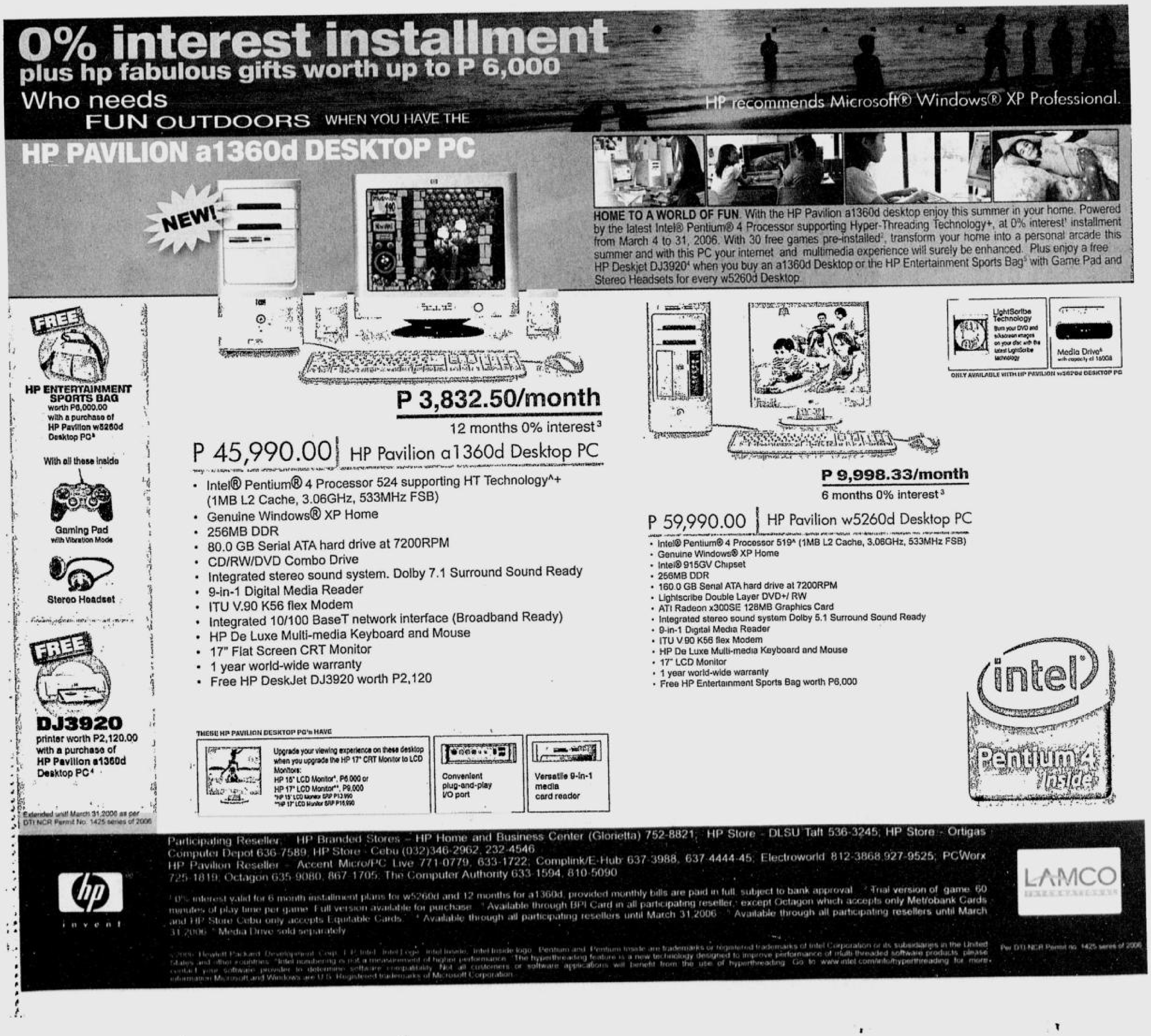
A verification made with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration also disclosed that the recruitment agency had no license to recruit workers for overseas employment.

Armed with a search warrant issued by Manila Regional Trial Court Judge Antonio Eugenio, NBI agents conducted a raid last Wednesday, which eventually led to the suspects' arrest.

# Blessed Teresa 2006 nominees

THIS YEAR MARKS THE 19th national search for the winner of the Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Award, a joint project of the Alfonso Yuchengco Foundation and the Junior Chamber International Philippines-Manila.

The search is intended to focus public attention and confer recognition on those who have dedicated at least 25 years of his/her life in the service of the less fortunate members of the Philippine society. For inquiries, please call the Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Award Committee at Tel. Nos. 525-2631 / 525-6814.



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# UN: Unemployment in Asia-Pacific up despite high economic growth

SINGAPORE—UNEMPLOYMENT IN Asia-Pacific countries has increased despite the region's strong economic growth, partly because the labor force has been growing faster than the pace of job creation, a UN report said Thursday.

"Asia is growing fast, 6-7 percent, but there is a high rate of unemployment," said Kim Hak-Su, executive secretary of the UN's Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at briefing at which the report was released.

Unemployment in the region grew by anywhere from 20 percent to 56 percent — depending on the country — during the decade leading up to 2004, when it reached 3.6 percent to 6.4 percent, the report showed.

In East Asia, which includes China, South Korea and Taiwan, the unemployment rate rose from 2.5 percent to 3.6 percent between 1994 and 2004, while in the Pacific and Southeast Asia—countries like Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia—the rate rose from 4.1 percent to 6.4 percent.

The unemployment rate grew from 4.0 percent to 4.8 percent in the same period for South Asia, which includes India, the report said.

In the past five years, only East Asian countries managed to lower the unemployment rate—by 0.2 percent, it said.

"Without growth, we cannot reduce poverty, but growth alone is not sufficient," Kim said.

Governments could alleviate the problem of jobless growth by adopting flexible labor market policies such as relaxing strict hiring and firing regulations to reduce the retention of unwanted employees and focusing more on labor intensive sectors while maintaining employment in other areas.

Kim said the economic growth rate of developing countries in the region decelerated in 2005 to an estimated 6.6 percent from 7.4 percent in the previous year due to high oil and commodity prices and a slowdown in the global information and technology industry, a key one for the region.

The agency forecast growth in East and Northeast Asia to fall to 6.5 percent this year from 6.9 in 2005, while North and Central Asia would fall from 6.9 percent to 6.1 percent, South and Southwest Asia would hold steady at 7 percent and Southeast Asia would grow to 5.9 percent from 5.4 percent.

Kim also said a rise in key US interest rates to 5 percent in the third quarter of this year would cut growth in Asian gross domestic product by 0.5 percentage point next year.

Kim said rising US interest rates in the 1970s caused huge difficulties for Latin American economies because they had borrowed large amounts of US dollar-denominated funds. In Asia, he said rising interest rates could lead to sharp price declines in the region's property market.

The US Federal Reserve raised its benchmark fed funds target rate to 4.75 percent on Tuesday, and most economists expect it to hike to 5.0 percent at its next meeting in May. *AP*

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# Aussie cyclone misses populated areas

SYDNEY—A SEVERE TROPICAL CYclone packing winds of up to 250 km an hour slammed into a major oil and mining region of Western Australia Thursday but missed the area's main population centers.

Cyclone Glenda hit land about 4:00 pm in cattle grazing territory in the Pilbara region about 200 km southwest of the massive oil and ore shipping center of Karratha, the Bureau of Meteorology said.

Initial reports from the region said the storm, classified as a category four cyclone out of a maximum rating of five, ripped up trees and toppled power lines.

Authorities said their main concern was flooding caused by torrential rains and a sea surge of up to 10 meters in an area already soaked by weeks of storms.

Several hundred people evacuated low-lying areas around Karratha, the region's main business center with a population of around 14,000.

But Glenda hit the coast to the southwest between a big cattle station called Mardie and Onslow, a rural town of about 800 some 1,300 km north of Perth.

"The saving grace is it's a relatively sparse area and direct hits are quite rare," Western Australian weather forecaster Neil Bennett said.

Mardie station manager Richard Climas said Glenda was the fourth cyclone to hit his cattle ranch so far this storm season, which runs from November to April.

"One over the top of us and one each side, now this one looks like it's going to give us another touch up, but they were just sort of sea breezes, this is the proper one this one," Climas said on Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio. *AFP*

**SKYGAZING**
**Tourists gathered in front of Apollo Temple to view a solar eclipse in the Turkish Mediterranean coastal resort of Side, Antalya, Wednesday, March 29.** AP

# Mini-moons explain riddle of Saturn's rings

PARIS—MINUTE MOONS JUST A HUNDRED meters or so across orbit Saturn within its rings, astronomers report on Thursday, suggesting that the finding sheds light on how the planet's majestic ring system came into being.

The prevailing theory is that the rings, so dazzlingly reflected by the distant Sun, comprise the remnants of an icy moon that long ago was smashed open by an asteroid or comet.

But a collision of this kind normally gives rise to debris in a wide range of sizes, from big lumps a kilometer wide to pebbles a few centimeters across.

Photographs and radar sensing by scout probes, though, have hitherto shown Saturn's ring particles to be remarkably small, between a few centimeters to a few metera across.

The only big exceptions were a pair of kilometer-wide moons called Pan and Daphnis that lurk within the ring system. There seemed to be nothing in the intermediate size.

Astronomers led by Matthew Tiscareno of Cornell University, New York, believe they have found some of the missing medium-sized rocks.

Their evidence comes from data sent back by the orbiting US spacecraft Cassini, which show gaps, shaped rather like a propeller blade or an elongated teardrop, in some of the rings. *AFP*

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# UN gives Iran 30 days to end uranium enrichment

UNITED NATIONS—THE UN SECURITY Council on Wednesday unanimously approved a non-binding statement giving Iran 30 days to abandon its uranium enrichment activities.

The statement is non-binding but US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said it "demonstrates that the international community is united in its concern over Iran's nuclear program" which Washington says hides an attempt develop an atomic bomb.

The full 15-member council backed a watered-down text worked out among the five veto-wielding permanent members on the eve of a Berlin meeting of foreign ministers of Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States on the Iranian nuclear crisis.

In a concession to Russia and China, the text, drafted by Britain and France, requested a report from the director of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on "Iranian compliance with the steps required by the IAEA board". The co-sponsors initially sought a report in 14 days.

The text also "underlines the particular importance of re-establishing full and sustained suspension of all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, including research and development, to be verified by the IAEA." It stressed that "suspension" of enrichment and "full, verified Iranian compliance" with IAEA demands "would contribute to a diplomatic, negotiated solution that guarantees Iran's nuclear program is for exclusively peaceful purposes."

Rice said in a statement that the UN move was "an important diplomatic step". "Iran is more isolated now than ever," she added.

"The Security Council's presidential statement sends an unmistakable message to Iran that its efforts to conceal its nuclear program and evade its international obligations are unacceptable.

"The international community expects Iran to comply with the IAEA's call to suspend all enrichment-related activity and to return to negotiations." France's UN envoy Jean-Marc de la Sabliere said the unanimous approval "sends a strong message that Iran has to comply with the requests" made by IAEA.

"Iran has 30 days. We hope that Iran will comply," he added. "If Iran doesn't comply, then the Security Council will have to take its responsibilities." "The ball is back in Iran's court and we will be here in 30 days to see what they do," US ambassador John Bolton said. "

Bolton said the major powers were keen to secure full Council approval of the text so that the Berlin meeting on Thursday would not be burdened with negotiating the text.

"The ministers will be having a forward-looking discussion," he added.

The ministers, including Rice and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, were to consider future steps, including sanctions, if Tehran refuses to back down.

The text, the fruit of three weeks of tough negotiations, was considerably softened to overcome Russian and Chinese objections to any hint of punitive measures.

The text sponsors dropped a paragraph that would have highlighted the Security Council's responsibility to maintain international peace and security.

"Russia and China declined to quote from the UN charter ... We accept that because the message is clear nonetheless that Iran's nuclear program is unacceptable," Bolton said.

The United States and its European allies believe Iran's civilian nuclear program hides an effort to develop weapons. Tehran says its program is peaceful and aims to generate electricity. *AFP*

**BRAZILIAN** astronaut Marcos Pontes gives thumb up during the farewell ceremony just before boarding the spaceship. AFP

# Brazil's first astronaut blasts off into space

BAIKONUR, KAZAKHSTAN—Brazil's first astronaut, Marcos Pontes, blasted off Thursday on an 11-day mission into space aboard a Soyuz rocket launched from Russia's Baikonur cosmodrome.

The rocket blasted off at 0230 GMT headed for the International Space Station (ISS) with Pontes, Russian cosmonaut Pavel Vinogradov and US astronaut Jeffrey Williams aboard.

"It's very moving. For the first time a Brazilian is going into space. It's the fruit of many years' work and sacrifice," Sergio Gaudenzi, head of the Brazilian Space Agency, told reporters at Baikonur, which is located on Kazakhstan's steppe and leased by Russia.

Pontes' wife Fatima shed tears of joy.

"Everything worked. We're happy," she said at the launch.

The rocket released the Soyuz TMA-8 docking vessel with the three astronauts aboard at an altitude of more than 200 km.

The vessel is due to dock on Saturday with the ISS, the only space station operating since the closure of Russia's Mir orbiter in 2001.

Ground control briefly lost contact with the vessel as it entered its orbit due to a technical problem, but this was soon fixed and contact restored, RIA-Novosti news agency reported.

"We are happy we can play a part in the mission of the first Brazilian astronaut. He will undoubtedly become a national hero for Brazil," Vyacheslav Davidenko, spokesperson for Russia's space agency Roskosmos, told AFP earlier.

"Marcos Pontes will allow his country to join the club of space powers," he said. *AFP*

# Student gets 30-year jail term for plotting to kill Bush

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA—A US COURT sentenced Ahmed Omar Abu Ali to 30 years in prison Wednesday for conspiring to kill President George W. Bush and for supporting al-Qaida.

The Arab-American student, 25, was found guilty last November on nine counts of plotting to kill Bush, conspiracy to hijack a plane and offering to aid Osama bin Laden's terror network.

Prosecutors had asked for life imprisonment for Abu Ali, who was convicted largely based on a taped confession which his lawyers said came after he was tortured in Saudi Arabia.

Abu Ali is a "fanatical al-Qaida terrorist" who "sought to duplicate" the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and "aimed at murdering thousands of innocent civil victims, even the president of the United States," said government attorney David Laufman.

However, Judge Gerald Bruce Lee rejected the call for a life sentence, noting that Abu Ali had never taken any action toward these ends.

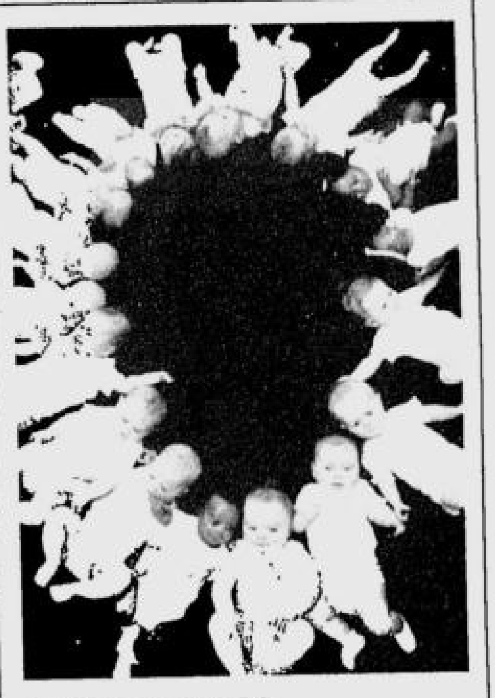
"He didn't take any step in the US," the judge said.

Abu Ali left the court, head lowered, without comment after the sentence was pronounced.

"Everything is in the hands of God. We know that if God wants, sooner or later Ahmed will be released," his father Omar Abu Ali said.

Abu Ali's case drew strong protests from human rights groups who argued that his videotaped confession, on which the prosecution relied almost exclusively, had been obtained following torture in Saudi Arabia.

But Lee admitted the confessions as evidence over the defense's objections, leading to Abu Ali's conviction last November 22 after a three-day trial. *AFP*



**INFANT MODELS**
Seventeen babies model their "This Side Up" onesies during a press conference for the "This Side Up" campaign to help fight Sudden Infant Death Sydrome or S.I.D.S. at the Children's Museum in Richmond, Va. on March 29. AP

# Apple vs Apple over use of logo

LONDON—THE HIGH COURT OF Britain, accustomed to the sounds of bewigged barristers parsing the fine points of the law, was treated Wednesday to a funky playback of the disco anthem "Le Freak" as a lawyer for the Beatles' record company argued that Apple Computer's iTunes digital music store violated a trademark agreement between the companies.

The Beatles' record company, Apple Corps, wants Apple Computer to stop using its familiar logo, in the shape of an apple with a bite out of it, on the iTunes Music Store.

Apple Corps contends that the use of the logo infringes on a 1991 agreement, which it says barred Apple Computer from using the logo in connection with the sale of music.

The trial is the latest in a series of disputes between Apple Computer and Apple Corps. But it is the first case between the companies in the era of digital downloading. That technology, which did not exist in 1991, currently accounts for more than 6 percent of music sales, the industry says.

In the London trial, which is likely to run into next week or perhaps even longer, Apple Computer is expected to argue that it merely serves as a conduit for the transmission of music in digital form. A lawyer for Apple Computer, Anthony Grabiner, declined to comment outside the courtroom, citing legal restrictions.

In his opening argument, Geoffrey Vos, a lawyer representing Apple Corps, dismissed the conduit argument, contending that the lack of "interoperability" with other companies' music stores undermined Apple Computer's stance.

He noted that iTunes offers exclusive songs not available in CD form, as well as repackaged collections, products that he said demonstrated that Apple Computer was a music seller, not simply a transmitter of other companies' music. The holder of the copyright on the music is not immediately obvious on iTunes, he added.

In the lawsuit, Apple Corps is seeking an injunction requiring Apple Computer to remove the bitten-apple logo from iTunes. If it succeeds, said Nick Valner, a lawyer representing Apple Corps, the company would seek undisclosed monetary damages. *New York Times News Service*

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**NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION**

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that ARLENDO C. SARMIENTO has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from ARLIN LORETO to ARLENDO in the Certificate of Live Birth of ARLIN LORETO CABRESOS SARMIENTO who was born on December 10, 1963 at TAGBILARAN, BOHOL and whose parents are ANTOLIN GABINES SARMIENTO and BIBIANA CHIU CABRESOS.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition within this office not later than April 10, 2006

(Sgd.) NORMA S. DIPUTADO
City Civil Registrar

(PDI-Mar. 31 & April 7, 2006)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 17, BATAC, ILOCOS NORTE

IN RE: PETITION OF NULLITY OF MARRIAGE BETWEEN LUISITO S. AGABAN AND ELIZA S. DOMINGO.
ELISA S. DOMINGO-HASTIE
represented by her attorney-in-fact
LUCENA CALAMAYAN
Petitioner,

SP. PROC. No. 4638-17

- versus -

LUISITO AGABAN AND THE CIVIL REGISTRAR GENERAL,
Respondents.
x - - - - x

**SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION**

WHEREAS, as per Order dated March 14, 2006, it was directed that summons be served by publication pursuant to Section 15, Rule 14 of the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure:

WHEREAS, the Material allegations of the complaint are as follows:

1. The petitioner is of legal age, presently married, American citizen and a permanent resident of Bethel, Alaska and temporarily residing in Batac, Ilocos Norte and who may be served with summons and other processes through her attorney-in-fact Lucena Calamayan at the Congressional Office of Congressman Roque R. Abalan, Ilocano Heroes Hall, Laoag City, Philippines: Respondent Luisito Agaban was known to be a native and resident of D. Silang Street, Batangas City and Bayanan I, Calapan, Oriental Mindoro where he may be served with summons and other processes of the Honorable Court while the Civil Registrar General may be served with the same at the National Statistics Office, Manila;
2. The petitioner was formerly a Filipino citizen who had worked in Singapore for sometime in the early and mid 1990's;
3. That while working in Singapore, petitioner met Luisito Agaban, a Filipino, and believing that the latter was single, she agreed to marry him on 27 January 1995 at the Philippine Embassy in Singapore;
4. That after her marriage with Luisito, they were blessed with one child, Luiza May Agaban and after that, Luisito also went to work abroad and she has not heard of him since then;
5. That petitioner then went to the United States of America, leaving her child Luiza Agaban to her relatives in the Philippines;
6. That while in the United States and believing that her husband Luisito was already dead, she married Sergeant First Class John L. Hastie II of the U.S. Army who is now retired and with whom she also has a child named Carson Francis Domingo Hastie;
7. That because petitioner wanted her child Luiza May Agaban and another biological child of hers to join her in the United States, she filed a petition for their migration with the United States Embassy sometime in May 2005 when she came to the Philippines for the purpose;
8. That unfortunately, her marriage with Luisito Agaban became a problem not only because she cannot be located but also because he was earlier married to a certain Myrna Rosales on June 19, 1988 in Calapan, Mindoro as shown by the records of the National Statistics Office/Registrar General of the Philippines, a fact that herein petitioner did not know when she tied the knot with him in Singapore;
9. That in view of the said first marriage of Luisito Agaban to Myrna Rosales, petitioner was required to first ask for the declaration of the nullity of her marriage to him in order that the United States Embassy would favorably consider the petition she filed for the migration of her children;
10. That considering that petitioner has no other remedy and because she is now a permanent resident of the United States, she caused this petition to be filed through her friend and attorney-in-fact, Lucena Calamayan;

WHEREFORE, it is respectfully prayed of this Honorable Court that the foregoing petition be approved by declaring as null and void herein petitioner's marriage to Luisito Agaban and for other relief that may be warranted under the circumstances.

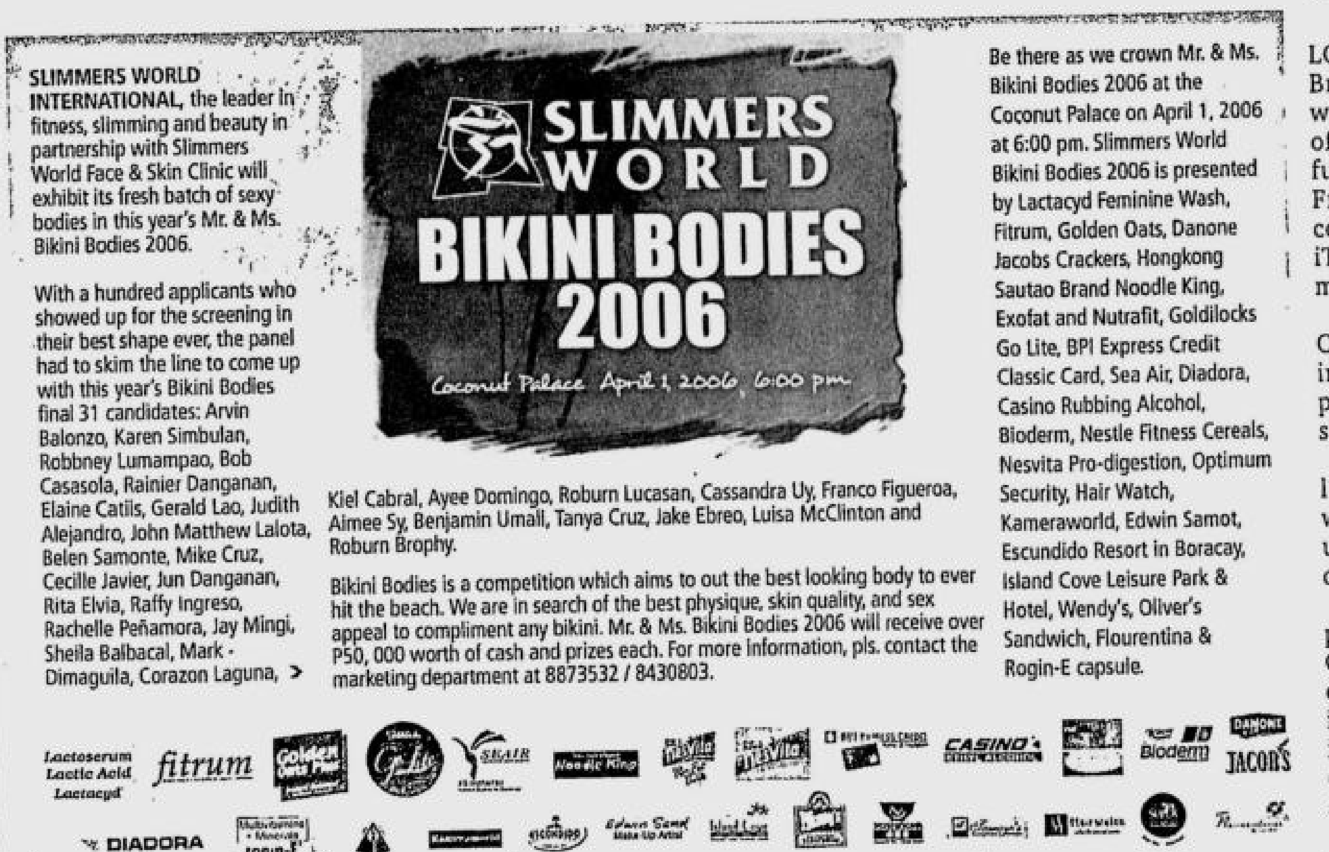
Laoag City, for Batac, Ilocos Norte, 14 November 2005.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to Sec. 15 Rule 14 of the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure, the herein defendant Luisito Agaban is hereby given sixty (60) days from the last publication of this Summons within which to answer the complaint. Summons should be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines at the expense of Petitioner Elisa S. Domingo Hastie

WITNESS THE HONORABLE ANGELO M. ALBANO, Presiding Judge of the Regional Trial Court, Branch 17, Batac Ilocos Norte, Philippines, March 14, 2006

(Sgd.) ATTY. ELIZABETH G. BRINGAS
Branch Clerk of Court V

(PDI - March 31, 2006)



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# US cuts off contacts with Hamas-led gov't

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED STATES ORdered its diplomats and contractors on Wednesday to cut off contacts with Palestinian ministries after a Hamas-led government was sworn in, the State Department said.

At the same time, US President George W. Bush expressed support for the Palestinian people but repeated his position no US funds should go to the Hamas leadership they elected.

"I think that aid should go to suffering Palestinians, but nor should it go to a government, however, which has expressed its desire to destroy its neighbor," Bush said during a question-and-answer session after he delivered a speech on Iraq.

Hamas is formally committed to the destruction of Israel and is classed by the US government as a terrorist organization. It won a landslide victory in Palestinian parliamentary elections in January.

"We support the election process, we support democracy, but that doesn't mean we have to support governments that get elected as a result of democracy," Bush said.

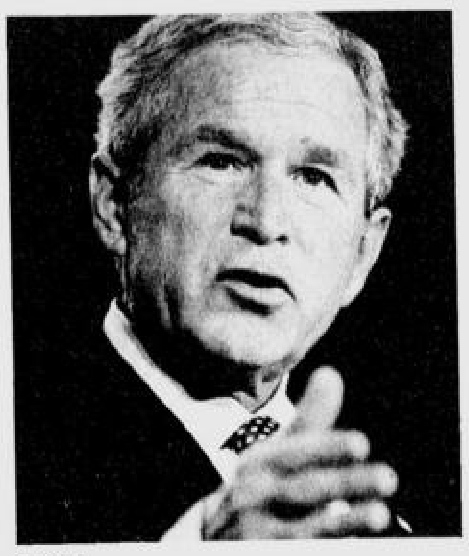
"I weep about the suffering of the Palestinians," Bush said, but added the Hamas-led government had to make a choice.

The United States hopes to isolate Hamas and pressure it to recognize Israel, renounce violence and abide by peace accords.

So far, the Islamic militant group has refused, although its leaders have said they would continue to observe a ceasefire with Israel.

A directive, distributed to US diplomats and other officials in the region by e-mail, instructed them with immediate effect not to have contacts with Hamas-appointed government ministers or those who work for them, whether they are members of the group or not, officials said.

"We will not have contact with members of Hamas, no matter what title they may have," said State Department spokesperson Sean McCormack.



BUSH

He said the directive was intended to ensure that US diplomats and officials around the world knew how to deal with Palestinian officials with whom they might come into contact.

McCormack said the United States would also examine its contacts with the Palestinian Authority and Palestinian diplomats around the world.

The no-contact policy was more sweeping than many had expected because it applies not just to Hamas members but to independents and technocrats in the new government.

The cutoff could affect a wide range of US programs, including security coordination with the Interior Ministry, officials said.

Contacts will still be permitted with President Mahmoud Abbas, his office and non-Hamas members of the Palestinian parliament, officials said.

The policy took effect when Abbas swore in a Hamas government at a ceremony in Gaza. Hamas's 24-member Cabinet is dominated by Hamas loyalists, but includes a few independents.

A US official said independents and technocrats were included in the ban because they were invited to join the government by a Hamas prime minister and took office after a vote of confidence by a Hamas-led parliament.

Officials said the no-contact policy applied to all parts of the US government, as well as to organizations that receive US funding for projects and services in the Palestinian territories.

US law bars the government from providing direct assistance to any group on the State Department's list of terrorist organizations.

Israel has frozen tax revenue transfers to the Palestinian Authority and has banned contacts with Hamas officials but has yet to spell out its policy on lower-level contacts with technocrats. An Israeli official said the issue would be discussed during a Cabinet meeting on Sunday. *Reuters*

# Olmert plans coalition after Israel vote win

JERUSALEM—ACTING PRIME MINISTER Ehud Olmert prepared Wednesday to form a coalition to fix Israel's final borders after his Kadima party won an election which has dramatically redrawn the political landscape.

With nearly all votes counted, Kadima was poised to emerge the largest party in parliament only four months after its creation by Olmert's coma-stricken mentor Ariel Sharon, although it did not secure enough seats to govern alone.

US President George W. Bush was among those who offered his congratulations but the moderate Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas responded to the result with a complete rejection of Olmert's plans to act unilaterally.

In a night of upsets which saw strong showings for a number of minor parties after the lowest turnout in Israel's history, the right-wing Likud that has dominated power for three decades was reduced to a humiliating fifth place.

The main headline of both mass circulation dailies trumpeted the "Big Bang" first triggered by Sharon back in November when he bolted Likud to form the centrist Kadima and promptly called an election a year ahead of schedule.

Sharon and then Olmert made clear they would use their next term in office to set the permanent borders of the Jewish state with or without negotiations with the Palestinians.

Olmert's separation plan could ultimately see Israel uproot around 70,000 settlers living in isolated West Bank settlements in an echo of the momentous pullout of the Jews from the Gaza Strip orchestrated by Sharon last year.

In return, Olmert wants to cement control over the big housing blocs which are home to the rest of the quarter of a million Israelis who have settled in the Palestinian territory since occupation began in 1967.

Asi Shariv, a senior official in the prime minister's office, told AFP Kadima had already formed a coalition negotiations team while President Moshe Katsav confirmed he would host a first round of coalition talks Sunday.

In his victory speech, Olmert said he was ready to compromise in the quest for Middle East peace and urged the Palestinians to exercise the same spirit. *AFP*

# 34 dead in fighting at Afghanistan base

KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN—US-LED TROOPS battled Taliban rebels who attacked a base in south Afghanistan Wednesday, leaving an American and a Canadian soldier dead along with at least 32 insurgents, officials said.

Coalition forces also destroyed two Taliban headquarters buildings containing weapons and bomb-making material during several hours of fighting in insurgency-hit Helmand province, a coalition statement said.

Militants attacked the coalition base in Sangin district in the early hours of the morning with mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and small arms.

Coalition attack aircraft dropped three 500-pound bombs and two 1,000-pound bombs and also fired high-explosive rockets, guided missiles and incendiary rounds, spokesperson Lieutenant Mike Cody told AFP.

Four coalition troops and an Afghan soldier were wounded in the firefight.

A man who identified himself as representing the Taliban, Yousuf Ahmadi, said Taliban militants had launched the attack.

The coalition said at least 12 insurgents were killed in the initial effort to beat back a "significant enemy element". It later reported a further 20 enemy casualties "as part of an early-morning engagement that continued into daylight hours as coalition forces defeated a large enemy element that was attempting to retreat into sanctuaries," the statement said.

The coalition then discovered large caches of munitions as they overran the Taliban buildings and the insurgents fled, the statement said.

Thirteen US troops have now died in hostile action in Afghanistan this year. The Canadian soldier named as Private Robert Costall was the first from his country to die in combat here in 2006. *AFP*

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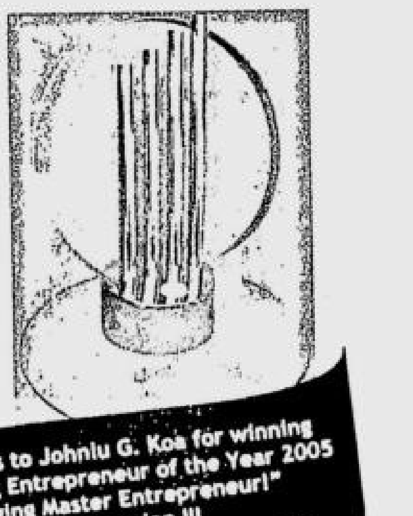

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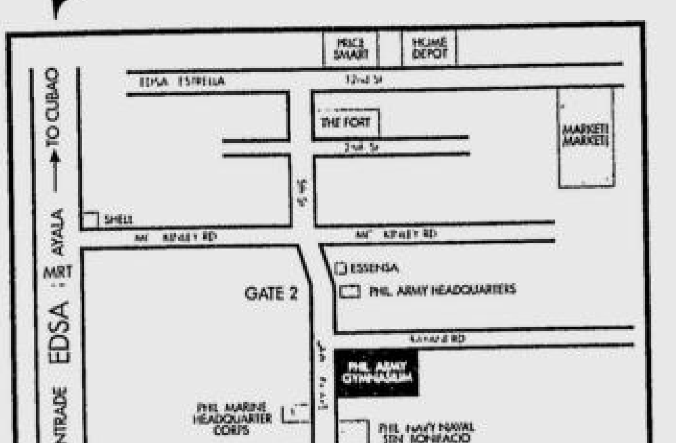
**March 31, Friday**

**RIBBON CUTTING** (Mayor Sigfrido Tinga with Mrs. Tinga • Mr. Jose Concepcion III with Mrs. Marissa Concepcion • Ms.Vivienne Tan • Ms. Maricel Laxa) • **NATIONAL ANTHEM** • **INVOCATION** • **GO NEGOSYO MUSIC VIDEO** • **FEU GO NEGOSYO DANCERS** • **OPENING REMARKS** (Jose Ma. Concepcion III) • **MESSAGE** (Gen. Generoso Senga) • **BUSINESSMAN MANIC MANAOG** (Leo Martinez) • **INTRODUCTION OF PROGRAM AND INTERACTIVE SESSIONS BY HOST** (Carelle Mangaliag) • **FORUM 1: "MICRONEGOSYO, KAPANGYARIHAN NG KABABAIHAN"** [Moderator - Pia Arcangel, Panelists: Myla Villanueva (MDI Group Holdings) • Myrna Yao (National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women) • Cheese Ledesma (The Big Chill) • Jeanne Bañez (Balut Eggspress)• Florida Banayat (Phil. Air Force Officers Ladies' Club) • Merle Alferez (MSA)*] • **TESTIMONY: "ANG BALANSYADONG BUHAY: PAMILYA'T NEGOSYO"** (Maricel Laxa) • **FORUM 2: "POSIBLENG NEGOSYO, ANONG BABAGAY SA'YO?"** (Moderator - Karen Davila, Panelists: Les Reyes (Reyes Haircutters) • Richie Cuna (Fiorgelato) • Chit Juan (Figaro) • Rowena Villegas (Wynski) • Karl Tan (Phil. Amalgamated Groceries and Supermarkets Association) • Agnes Car (Women Inventors Assoc. of the Phils., Inc.) • **MICRONEGOSYO -- NOW NA!** (Arnel Ignacio) • **MAKATANG NONOY: ISANG TULA HANDOG SA KABABAIHAN** (Ony Carcamo) • **FORUM 3: "PERANG PANG-NEGOSYO, SAAN KA NGA BA TATAKBO?"** [Moderator - Cherry Mercado, Panelists: Ma. Corazon Dabao (AFPMBAI) • Bert Galvan (GMA Rural Bank of Cavite) • Jessica Barrun (People's Credit and Finance Corporation) • Noel Camacho (Bayan Foundation) • Ma. Teresa Reyes (BPI Family Savings Bank) • Rafael Serrano (First Macro Bank) • Derick Rasalan (PSBank)] • **TESTIMONY: "PAGNENEGOSYO KASAMA ANG KAPUSO'T KAPAMILYA"** (Anthony Pangilinan) • **TALK: "KALAYAAN SA KAKAPUSAN"** (Francisco Colayco) • **FORUM 4: "MGA PAYO AT GABAY SA TAGUMPAY"** [(Moderators - Anna Periquet and Carl Balita of Radyo Negosyo, Panelists: Maoi Arroyo (Hybridigm) • Rommel Juan (Binalot Fiesta Foods) • Doyee Tumpalan (First Quadrant) • Ricardo Collantes (Kookai's) • Johnlu Koa (The French Baker) • Sandy Javier (Andok's) • Ronald Pineda (Folded and Hung)]

**April 1, Saturday**

**SKILLS DEMO/TRAINING BY LE CORDON BLEU, TESDA-NCR, DOST, TLRC, AND REYES HAIRCUTTERS: POLVORON AND PASTILLAS MAKING** (Laura Lazaro - WIAPI) • **CHOCOLATE CANDY MAKING** (Anecita Pablo - TLRC) • **PAPER TOLE** (Shirly Fabros - Approtech Asia) • **REFLEXOLOGY** c/o Women Center • **MEAT PROCESSING AND DIMSUM MAKING** c/o Approtech Asia • **COOKING AND FOOD PREPARATION DEMOS** • **BASIC HAIRCUTTING** • **WEB DESIGN** (Mark Fernandez - TESDA-NCR) • **TOMATO-BASED PRODUCTS** c/o Approtech Asia • **COMPOST TEA BREWER** (Capt. James Fros Reamon - ICII) • **AUTOCADD** (Freddie Estacio - TESDA-NCR) • **PRESERVED SAMPALOC AND TEA MAKING** (Rita Ritz - WIAPI) • **CELLPHONE REPAIR** c/o Approtech Asia • **SESSIONS ON STARTING A BUSINESS: HOW TO START A FRANCHISE BUSINESS** c/o Association of Filipino Franchisers, Inc. • **"LAKBAY KAINAN: GOURMET PARA SA MASA"** (Ludette Dayrit - Le Cordon Bleu) • **HOW TO START A FOOD CART BUSINESS** c/o Food Cart Association of the Philippines • **USAPANG MICRONEGOSYO** • **HOW TO START A SALON/BARBERSHOP** c/o Reyes Haircutters • **HOW TO START A HOME SPA BUSINESS** (Cathy Brillantes - Turvill - Founding President, Spa Association of the Philippines) • **"BIGATIN KA BA SA NEGOSYO?"** (Willie Revillame) • **BUSINESS MENTORING BOOTH** - Mentoring from 11 am to 3 pm c/o Anna Periquet (Anna Marie Home Collection (Philippines), Inc.), Alberto Fenix, Jr. (President, Pulp Tech), Lin Deres (Franchise Manager, Goldilocks), Jhonny Filart (President, One Source Port Service, Inc.), Bing Limjoco (Chairman, Philippine Franchise Association), Dante Ang, Jr. (President, Manila Times), Lray Villafuerte (Chairman, Lara's Gifts and Decors), Maret Bautista (Vice President, Follosco Group of Cos.), Mel Alonzo (Chairman, SBGFC), Victor Tan (President, Bobson), Jose Magsaysay (President, Potato Corner), Honor Dimapilis (Faculty, DLSU), Bong Abad (Faculty, DLSU), Jojo Mitra (President, Purong Makapuno), Richie Cuna (President, AFFI/Fiorgelato), Rommel Juan (President and CEO, Binalot Fiesta Foods), Rosemarie Lee (President, Memory Magic) and Rene Canlas (Consultant, BPO Industry) • **HANDS-ON BAKING DEMO (HAND-MIXED PINOY PAN DE SAL) AND MICRO-BAKERY BUSINESS MENTORING** (Johnlu Koa - The French Baker)



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Para sa inyong mga tanong, tumawag lamang sa Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship sa mga numerong 637-9347, 637-9229, 813-2612, 813-2617 o sa 0921-820-0484, 0920-960-7636 o mag-email sa gonegosyo@yahoo.com.

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

# Protesters barricade Thai newspaper

BANGKOK—ABOUT 2,000 PROGOVERNMENT demonstrators gathered outside the headquarters of a Thai media group Thursday, angry over an alleged insult to the country's revered king by one of its newspapers.

Police threw up barricades around the entrance to The Nation Group building on the outskirts of the Thai capital as protest leaders demanded to meet with the writer of an article that allegedly insulted King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

Earlier, the Thai-language Kom Chad Luek daily closed itself down for three days starting Thursday to apologize for misquoting a reference to the monarch by a leader of the movement to oust Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

The chief editor of the Kom Chad Luek newspaper has also resigned over the incident, said Thepchai Yong, a senior editor of The Nation Group.

Kom Chad Luek had earlier admitted that it failed to print in full a reference to King Bhumibol made by protest leader Sondhi Limthongkul, thus leaving his remarks in a form that might upset the monarch. The report could also open up the newspaper to charges of lese majeste.

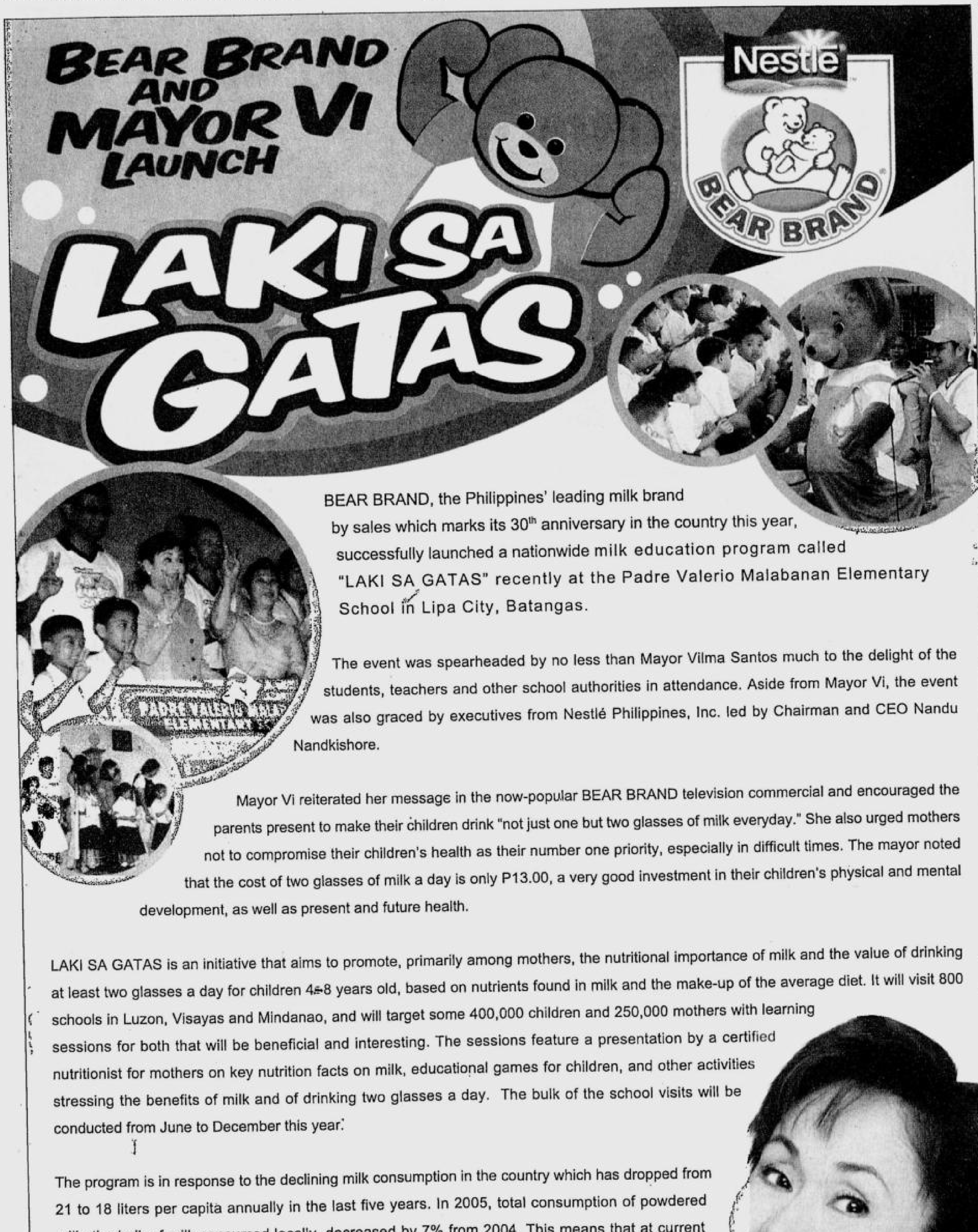
"The Kom Chad Luek newspaper is punishing itself for the mistake by stopping to print" for three days, Thepchai told reporters. "The chief editor has already resigned."

Demonstrations for and against Thaksin have been a daily occurrence in the Thai capital over the past few weeks, with the anti-Thaksin groups calling for the king to intervene by appointing an interim prime minister. Both sides pledge their loyalty to the constitutional monarch.

Sondhi and other leaders have accused Thaksin of corruption, abuse of power, election fraud and selling off a national asset to a foreign nation. Thousands of Thai protesters marched on the offices of the country's election commission Thursday demanding the last-minute cancellation of this weekend's polls.

The latest protest in two months of political turmoil followed a Bangkok sit-in overnight that drew around 50,000 people onto the streets calling on Thaksin to step down before Sunday's vote.

"This is a very critical moment. Only people power can force Prime Minister Thaksin to quit," rally leader Chamlong Srimuang told the crowd, which waved banners calling the commission members "political criminals." But support for Chamlong's movement appeared to be waning. He cut short the sit-in at a major Bangkok retail district, which was originally planned to run until Friday, after widespread complaints over the traffic jams it caused. *AFP*


BEAR BRAND AND MAYOR VI LAUNCH
LAKI SA GATAS
Nestlé
BEAR BRAND
PADRE VALERIO MALABANAN ELEMENTARY

BEAR BRAND, the Philippines' leading milk brand by sales which marks its 30th anniversary in the country this year, successfully launched a nationwide milk education program called "LAKI SA GATAS" recently at the Padre Valerio Malabanan Elementary School in Lipa City, Batangas.

The event was spearheaded by no less than Mayor Vilma Santos much to the delight of the students, teachers and other school authorities in attendance. Aside from Mayor Vi, the event was also graced by executives from Nestlé Philippines, Inc. led by Chairman and CEO Nandu Nandkishore.

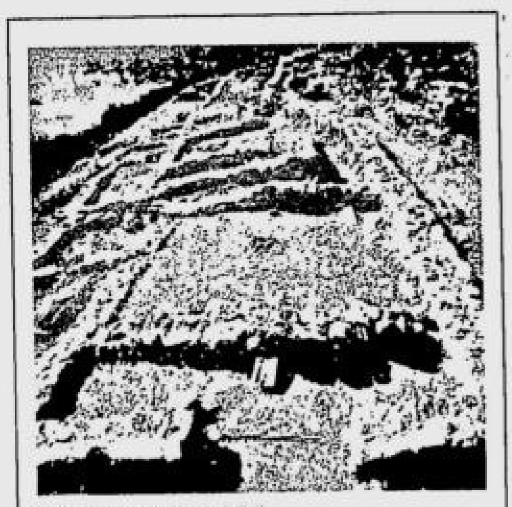
Mayor Vi reiterated her message in the now-popular BEAR BRAND television commercial and encouraged the parents present to make their children drink "not just one but two glasses of milk everyday." She also urged mothers not to compromise their children's health as their number one priority, especially in difficult times. The mayor noted that the cost of two glasses of milk a day is only P13.00, a very good investment in their children's physical and mental development, as well as present and future health.

LAKI SA GATAS is an initiative that aims to promote, primarily among mothers, the nutritional importance of milk and the value of drinking at least two glasses a day for children 4-8 years old, based on nutrients found in milk and the make-up of the average diet. It will visit 800 schools in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, and will target some 400,000 children and 250,000 mothers with learning sessions for both that will be beneficial and interesting. The sessions feature a presentation by a certified nutritionist for mothers on key nutrition facts on milk, educational games for children, and other activities stressing the benefits of milk and of drinking two glasses a day. The bulk of the school visits will be conducted from June to December this year.

The program is in response to the declining milk consumption in the country which has dropped from 21 to 18 liters per capita annually in the last five years. In 2005, total consumption of powdered milk, the bulk of milk consumed locally, decreased by 7% from 2004. This means that at current levels, Filipinos, including children, on the average are drinking less than one glass of milk each day.

Children who do not drink milk are being deprived of an important food that can help maximize their growth, development and health, all the way into adulthood. Milk is the single best food that can help children grow physically and mentally, with carbohydrates, proteins, vitamins and minerals -- particularly calcium for strong bones and teeth -- nearly all the basic nutrients that a growing child needs.

For this reason, Nestlé, with its global knowledge on milk and nutrition, and BEAR BRAND, as the country's leading milk, are embarking on LAKI SA GATAS to promote health through milk education.



**LOST KINGDOM**
The central palace complex from a 3,200-year-old settlement on the island of Salamis, near Athens, Greece, is shown in an undated handout picture provided by excavator Yiannis Lolos. Lolos believes he has found the seat of the mythical King Ajax of Salamis, one of the heroes of the Trojan War. The hilltop site overlooks a small natural harbor. AP

# UN-backed tribunal set to try Taylor

FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE—LIBERIA'S one-time warlord Charles Taylor was in the hands of Sierra Leone's tribunal Thursday, where he is set to become the first-ever African head of state tried on war crimes charges by an international court.

Taylor has been indicted by the UN-backed tribunal on 11 counts of crimes against humanity stemming from his support for brutal rebels in Sierra Leone. His arrival in handcuffs at the court Wednesday represented a watershed moment for West Africa, a region long shaken by Taylor's warmaking.

"Today is a momentous occasion, an important day for international justice, the international community, and above all the people of Sierra Leone," said Desmond de Silva, chief prosecutor of the tribunal called the Special Court.

"His presence in the custody of the Special Court sends out the clear message that no matter how rich, powerful or feared people may be, the law is above them," De Silva said.

Nigerian police captured the exiled ex-Liberian president late Tuesday as he tried to leave Nigeria, where he has lived in the south since stepping down from power during a 2003 rebel attack. He was caught trying to slip across the northern Nigerian border with Cameroon with his son, an aide-de-camp and a local guide, along with two 50-kg sacks filled with US dollars and euros, Nigerian police official Alhaji Mohammed Aminu Bello said.

UN peacekeepers ferried Taylor by helicopter to the court, where de Silva said he was read his arrest warrant and would make his first court appearance by the end of this week.

Taylor joined nine other defendants, also charged with crimes committed during Sierra Leone's brutal 1989-2002 civil war. Taylor, a bombastic speechmaker during his time in the bush and as Liberia's president, made no comment.

The charges against Taylor stem from his support of the Revolutionary United Front rebels that terrorized civilians in Sierra Leone for years, chopping off the arms, legs, ears and lips of their victims.

On March 3, 2003, Taylor was indicted on 17 counts alleging war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international humanitarian law for backing the rebels during the war. De Silva said that on March 16, 2006, the judge of the Special Court approved an amended indictment of 11 counts, which he said "will ensure a more focused trial."

The court began trials in 2004, but Taylor was their highest-profile defendant and the first African head of state to face trial on war-crimes charges.

Nigerian police said they found him in a vehicle with diplomatic plates. He was wearing a safari suit and was in possession of sacksful of dollars and euros, they said. His journey to the UN court then went through several African countries, after Nigeria deported him to his native Liberia, which handed him over for extradition to Sierra Leone. *AP*

# SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph
Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**
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# Pacman-Larios tickets cost as high as $1,000

WHAT'S INSIDE
▣ BAP defers filing arbitration case versus POC /A35
▣ Sharapova gains semifinals /A37

By Salven L. Lagumbay
*Contributor*

PACQUIAO

BOXING STAR MANNY PACquiao says he wants his next fight to be held in the country as a tribute to his countrymen.

However, based on fans' reaction to what they called as 'expensive' tickets, it seems the July 2 fight at the Araneta Coliseum isn't really for the masses.

But before fans start lynching Pacquiao for the prohibitive cost of the tickets for his upcoming duel with Oscar Larios, trainer Freddie Roach said yesterday Manny had no say in the issue during an interview with a popular boxing website.

Roach told Boxingtalk's Brad Cooney that ABS-CBN, which owns the exclusive right to the fight coverage, has decided on the ticket prices based on the results of its research.

"Well, they just had the WWE (World Wrestling Entertainment) over there, and the place was sold out...ABS researched it, and they have done entertainment stuff before, and they say they know what they are doing, so it's out of our hands. ABS says they are in control, and they say that this fight will sell out within a week," Roach told Boxingtalk.

Early reports said ticket prices for the fight would cost $1,000 (roughly P51,000) for the so-called "corporate seats" while ringside tickets could cost P25,000 and P1,000 for the bleachers.

Roach added that ABS-CBN will do the local coverage for the fight, while HBO will pick up the pay-per-view feed for the American, Latino, and Filipino viewers in the United States.

Organizers plan to sell some 17,000 tickets, while the rest of the seats will be reserved for VIP's and other non-paying boxing aficionados.

Roach also defended the choice of Larios as Pacquiao's opponent, citing that the Mexican "is a tough guy, a live opponent and ex-world champion," who was approved by HBO and is not an easy opponent by any means.

Roach was reacting to reports that portrayed Larios as an easy foe for Pacquiao.

He added that if Pacquiao gets by Larios, and if Erik Morales insists on fighting at a catch weight beyond 130 lb, then they would be forced to accept Barrera's dare of a Nov. 4 showdown.

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# Painters down Sparks, secure tie for top spot

By Jasmine W. Payo

RAIN OR SHINE'S TALL FRONTcourt put up another dominant display in a 73-67 victory over Toyota Otis that gave the Elasto Painters a share of the lead in the PBL Unity Cup yesterday at the San Andres Gym.

Jay-R Reyes and Marvin Ortiguerra combined for 29 points even as 6-foot-10 rookie Samigue Eman made his presence felt on both ends of the court in the final stretch.

**GAMES TOMORROW**
**(San Andres Gym)**
2 p.m.—Rain or Shine vs Hapee-PCU
4 p.m.—Harbour Centre vs Toyota Otis

"We won over Toyota the hard way," said coach Leo Austria after the Elasto Painters joined Montaña on top at 2-0. "The players were inspired and motivated with the arrival of Eman, but Reyes also stepped up."

Earlier, Jason Castro reprised his lead role as Hapee-PCU forged a 68-63 win over Harbour Centre.

Coming off a 25-point performance, Castro shot 21 points, including two crucial baskets in the final two minutes, to boost the Teethmasters to their first win.

But coach Junel Baculi said the Teethmasters still have a lot of work to do.

"We're still groping for form," said Baculi. "But kudos goes to Robert Sanz, Jason and Gabby (Espinas)."

Hapee-PCU, Toyota Otis, Magnolia and Granny Goose wound up tied at 1-1, while Harbour Centre and TeleTech remained winless in two games.

Back-to-back baskets from Jojo Tangkay, last conference's Most Valuable Player, sparked a 14-2 rally in the final period that gave the Painters a 63-57 lead from 49-55.

The Painters remained on top for good at 67-63 behind Ortiguerra and Eman, a 24-year-old standout from the University of Mindanao who joined the Painters only three days ago.

Toyota Otis' Fil-Am sensation Joe Devance shot a game-high 17 points on top of 10 rebounds.

**The scores:**

**First Game**

**HAPEE-PCU 68**—Castro 21, Belga 12, Sanz 10, Nailon 5, Moreño 4, Espinas 4, Guevarra 4, Gonzales 3, Baculi 3, Solis 2, Razon 0, Canlas 0.

**HARBOUR CENTRE 63**—Chia 10, Yeo 9, Tenorio 8, Araña 8, Alonzo 7, Reyes 7, Maierhofer 6, Gaco 4, Gamboa 4, Paterno 4, Coching 3, Saguindel 0, Lanete 0, Mesina 0.

**Quarters:** 18-23, 35-33, 52-49, 68-63

**Second Game**

**RAIN OR SHINE 73**—Reyes 16, Ortiguerra 13, Tangkay 11, Eman 8, Enrile 7, Tan 6, Malabanan 4, Cabatu 4, Orbeta 2, Sagad 2, Sta. Maria 0.

**TOYOTA OTIS 67**—Devance 17, Aldave 14, Bautista 6, Daa 6, Andaya 4, Rodriguez 4, Aban 4, Coronel 4, Casio 3, Fajardo 3, Larong 2, Cabahug 0, Baluyot 0.

**Quarters:** 17-16, 34-31, 49-53, 73-67

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# Bulls, Giants renew rivalry

**GAMES TODAY (Cuneta Astrodome)**
4:40 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Barangay Ginebra
7:35 p.m.—Purefoods vs Red Bull

NO TROPHY IS AT STAKE BUT A LOT OF pride will be on the line when Red Bull and Purefoods clash today in the Gran Matador Brandy-PBA Philippine Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The 7:35 p.m. contest marks their first meeting since the Bulls downed the Giants in their best-of-seven series for the championship of the import-laced Fiesta Conference recently.

"That loss to Red Bull pricked the pride of my players," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio following the Giants' victory over the Alaska Aces that put them in a share of second place (3-2) with the San Miguel Beermen and the Bulls. "But the good thing about it is I don't need extra motivation to push my players. They are already motivated."

Barangay Ginebra will definitely need loads of motivation when the slumping Kings meet league-leader Coca-Cola Tigers in the earlier match at 4:40 p.m..

The Gin Kings have lost three in a row after winning their first two outings with Eric Menk still to regain top form after an ankle sprain and Jayjay Helterbrand and Marc Caguioa struggling with their running game.

Though the law of averages has caught up with the Tigers, they could exploit the problems that have been bugging the Gin Kings for quite some time now.

The Tigers are also expected to play with renewed fire after taking a drubbing from the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals that ended their winning streak at four games.

Red Bull is one of the teams threatening to dislodge the Tigers and the way the Bulls have been blasting the opposition is a cause for worry for the Giants.

"We just have to maintain our energy level," said Guiao after the Bulls beat the Air21 Express the other night as Lordy Tugade fired 13 of his 17 points in the final period.

*June Navarro*

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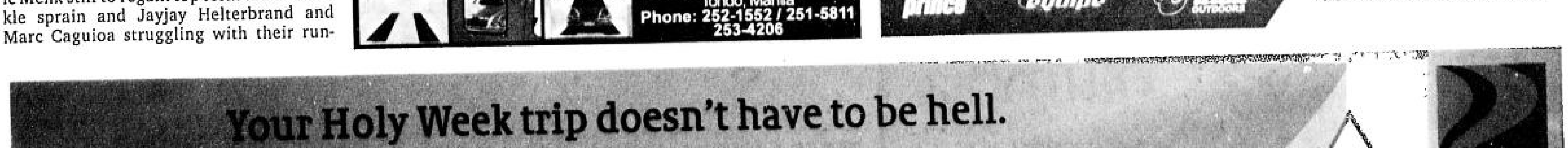
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# Dumandan storms ahead in DHL Open

**By Musong R. Castillo**

CANLUBANG, LAGUNA—MARVIN Dumandan whipped up a storm during a calm third round yesterday, shooting a 6-under-par 66 as the DHL-WWWExpress Amateur Open toasted a new leader for the third straight day at Cangolf North here.

Dumandan fired at pins with reckless abandon and got rewarded for it, gunning down seven birdies after opening up with par and his only bogey to total 213 after 54 holes and take a two-shot lead over Singaporean ace Quincy Quek.

The 18-year-old Quek, whose demeanor on the course is nothing short of a pro's, continued to improve after shooting an opening 73 on Tuesday, carding 70 this time for 215, three ahead of solo third placer Ronnie Torrecampo, who signed for a 73.

Former winner Jun Bernis returned a level 72 and got back into the thick of the fight after skying to a 78 on Wednesday, leading Michael Bibat and National Caddies' Open program standout Mark Fernando in joint fourth with 219 aggregates.

Bibat, the former Singapore Amateur winner, and Fernando, who had a piece of the lead along with Quek and Torrecampo after 36 holes, both submitted 74s with Rufino Bayron alone in seventh spot at 220 after a 72.

Joseph Labajo, the fifth man in the crowded lead after Wednesday, struggled with a 76 to join Jay Bayron and Anthony Fernando in eighth place with 221 aggregates. Jay, the older brother of Rufino, shot 75 and Fernando a 72.

In the women's side, junior standout Bambee Revilla submitted a 74 to put herself in position towards a breakthrough win in an Open tournament.

Counting her first round 77 on Wednesday, Revilla now has a four-shot lead over reigning RP Ladies' champ Debbie De Villa, who shot a 77, and Lora Roberto, who fired a 76, for 155.

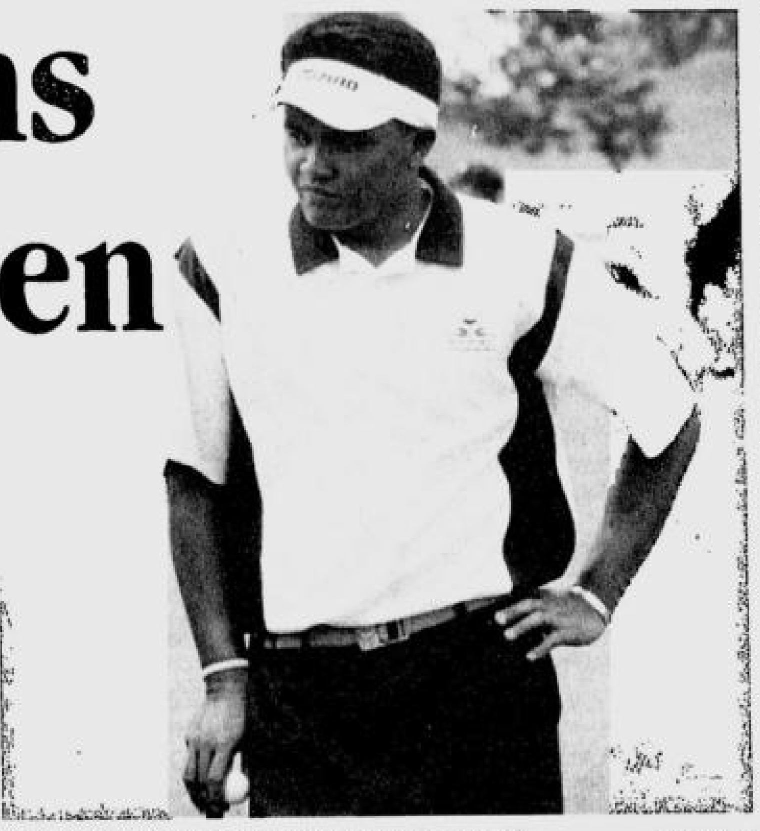
Revilla, also 15 like De Villa, actually had two double bogeys, but battled back with a total of four birdies.

"My putting clicked," Dumandan said in Filipino. "I felt like I could make every putt I took. I was so confident that the holes were as big as buckets out there.

"I also played with a lot of luck, yesterday being my wife's birthday."

While Dumandan was having a heyday, Quek struggled despite posting the only other sub-par score for the day.

Quek birdied 12 and 13 and then eagled the 14th. He was threatening to take the lead until a double bogey 6 on the 18th did him in.



**DUMANDAN** surges ahead with 6-under-par 66. ERIK ARAZAS

# De La Salle, SBC prevail

DE LA SALLE AND SAN BEDA COLlege got off to fiery starts in both the alumni and high school divisions of the Total-Filoil-Flying-V Homegrown Cup inaugurals at the San Juan gym.

The La Salle All-Stars, behind ex-PBA players Tony Boy Espinosa and Alvin Magpantay, turned back their Letran counterparts, 72-65, while the SBC Red Lions stunned the Ateneo Blue Eagles, 88-77.

In high school openers, the Greenies made it a double for DLSU, edging the Squires, 68-65, while the Red Cubs shot down the Eagles, 73-65.

The tournament is sponsored by Globe and Shell and supported by Sunbolt, Immuvit, Accel, Gerry's Grill, Bank of Commerce, Banco de Oro, Security Bank, X-24, PBCom, Millennium Plans and Solar Sports.

# Orchard, Riviera bets win

LIPA, BATANGAS—WOLEN SUperal closed with an even-par 72 that gave Orchard the needed lift to clinch the Division I championship in the Jungolf Interclub 2006, the opening leg of the Samsung Summer Circuit, at the Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club here.

Superal, a world jungolf champion who took a six-month break from the game after a hip surgery, proved that he was back for good with a stirring effort that rubbed on to sister Crystal (75) and Nico Sevilla (76) for an Orchard title romp.

Orchard totaled 223 for the day and a 54-hole aggregate of 690 , 12 strokes better than the 702 of Aguinaldo which made 233. Riviera placed third with a 242-713.

Riviera ruled the two other divisions of the tourney which has Samsung and Philippine Airlines as main sponsors. The other sponsors are DHL, Callaway, Titleist, Mizuno, La Jolla, Taylor Made, Wilson, Ping, MCCI Air Liquid, Auto Magic, Inquirer Golf and Michael Guy.

Maan Legaspi shot a 75, Miggy Yee added a 77 and AR Ramos had an 80 as Riviera I streaked to a 22-stroke triumph in Division II.

The Rivierans, who bucked an 82 by fourth player Tonton Arevalo, finished with a 706 total, far ahead of Royal Northwoods, who had 242-738, and Aguinaldo (247-756).

In the Division III competitions played at the Riviera executive course, Abby Arevalo, Mia Legaspi, Tommy Agojo and Ma. Elena Quiaoit powered Riviera to a 13-stroke win over Valley.

The circuit moves to Camp John Hay course for the second leg on April 5-7. Players must register with the Jungolf office at 893-95-99.

Superal also took the individual plum in Class B while sisters Crystal and Princess topped girls Class A and Class D, respectively.

Other boys titlists were Lee Dong Geun in Class A, Bino dela Paz in Class C, RJ Tallud in Class D, Justin Dy in Class E and Tommy Agojo in Class F. Other girls winners were Beverly Mendoza (Class B), Maan Legaspi (Class C), Abby Arevalo (Class E) and Chloe Reyes (Class F).

# Iloilo cagers makes NBC debut

ILOILO CITY—THE ILOILO CITY Warriors, now backed by Mayor Jerry Trenas, make their southern division debut in the 2006 NBC national basketball championship today when they host expansion team North Cotabato at the University of San Agustin gym here.

The Warriors hope to make a big impact now that Mayor Trenas and the city government have backed them up. But Gov. Manny Pinol's Braves are determined to spoil Iloilo's debut in the 6 p.m. match.

The Braves, who beat Valencia, 80-74, recently are shooting for their second win in three games against the Warriors, who are supported by the Iloilo Basketball League led by Snook Divinagracia.

New Iloilo coach Rodolfo Molet Medez pins his hopes on Elben Leonida and Eldrin Senierez. Backing up the duo are Edgar Castro, Mark Unarce, Ehlo Antenor-Cruz, Loreto Bautista Jr., Allen Sucaldito, Edward Ogunsaya, Gerard Ganzon, Emil Villanueva, Julius Jalipa, Denself Sina-on, Paul Ian Poral, Lol Lima and Henry Sencil.

Thirteen teams are vying in the tourney sponsored by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, Spring Cooking Oil, Regent Foods, Firefly Lightings, Molten and Prime Channel.

## Sidelights

World-class tennis action at the 17th Mitsubishi Lancer International Junior Tennis Championship

FIL-AMERICAN Denise Dy hopes to make an impressive performance before her countrymen in the ongoing Mitsubishi Lancer International Juniors Tennis Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. This, after she was eliminated in the first round of last year's edition together with four other local wild cards.

"This is a tough tournament and everyone wants to win. I don't want to disappoint people, I will work hard no matter what," said the fifth-seeded Dy, who is ranked No. 59 in the International Tennis Federation (ITF) roster of juniors.

The US-born and raised Dy boosted her title chances this year after posting a 6-3, 6-1 quarterfinal victory over No. 19 Varatchai Wongteanchai of Thailand, a win which gave the Filipino a 3-0 record against the world No. 97 Thai.

"Im happy with the way I'm playing right now and I want to win this tournament," said Dy, who won the singles and doubles titles in the Phinma ITF Juniors last year at the Manila Polo Club.

*******

Girls top seed Sacha Jones looks forward to a championship in the ongoing tournament, which she is participating in for the first time. But the Auckland-born netter doesnt want to be overconfident. She is just optimistic.

"Everyones goal here is to win the title. I also want to win but I don't want to think about the title yet. I just want to take it one match at a time," said the 17-year-old Jones, ranked No. 32 in the world juniors.

An all-around player who is an aggressive baseliner, Jones reached the quarterfinals following a 6-3, 7-5 win over No. 13 Elena Chernyakova of Russia yesterday.

Jones, who reached the second round of this year's Australian Open Juniors, eyes a rematch with second seed Khrystyna Antoniychuk of Ukraine, who beat the New Zealander, 6-3, 6-2, in the semifinals of the Bangkok ITF event last week.

"It will be an interesting match, I want to meet her again," said Jones, who defeated Antoniychuk, 6-2, 6-3 in the Malaysia ITF Juniors final two weeks ago for her fifth title overall.

# Freedom Camp set

REGISTRATION FOR the Levi's Engineered Jeans Freedom Camp on April 1 and 2, at the Market! Market!, the Fort in Taguig.

Those within the 15-25 age bracket, can join any—or all five camp activities—freestyle basketball, freestyle football, free climbing, zipping and freestyle dance. Participation is free.

A total of P100,000 are also up for grabs in the group freestyle dance competition.

Aside from cash prizes, 1st prize winners in each event will receive gift certificates from Levi's and other sponsors: Levi's Eyewear, Levi's Timing, Mizuno, And 1, and Snickers Chocolate Bar.

Register at selected Levi's stores or get the form by e-mail, text REG LEJ your e-mail address and send to 0917-8566323. Call the Levi's Freedom Camp Hotline at 894-5425 or 813-5283.

## Clark hosts Quartermile

THE 2ND LEG OF THE 2006 Quartermile Drag Racing Championship Series will be held this Saturday at Omni Aviation inside Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga. Drag race enthusiasts from Pampanga, Tarlac, Baguio, Cabanatuan, Pangasinan, Bulacan, Dagupan , Subic and Manila are expected to join. Registration starts at 3 p.m. The event is organized by Roadwise Motoring Foundation in cooperation with Kotse.co and Tech & Tuner Magazine. For inquiries, call or text Liza at 0916-3121050.

**HONEY** Gladys Moreno (white) of Xavier University tries to keep ball in play against Noelynne Dalman of Capitol University. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

# Capitol University gains semis

CAPITOL UNIVERSITY OF CAGAYAN DE ORO, a first-timer in the Nestea Beach Volley Championships, yesterday stunned University of Mindanao Tagum, 25-19, to reach the semifinals of this sizzling summer event scheduled in Boracay from May 4-6.

Rolex Cubillas and Jose Carlos Cagadas of Capitol, long-time partners in indoor volleyball but first-timers in beach volleyball, regaled the crowd at the La Salle Greenhills sand court as they eliminated the taller UMT pair of Lowell Fabian and Johnny Macula.

Capitol U lost its first match of the day to University of Mindanao Davao, 25-21, then bounced back with a 25-14 win over Holy Cross of Davao College to set up the do-or-die match with UMT, which defeated Misamis U, 25-7, before losing to Mindanao State U, 25-23.

Other Mindanao teams advancing to the Boracay semis are Ateneo de Davao, UMD and MSU in the men's division, and MSU, UMD, UMT and HCDC in the women's side.

Ateneo de Davao advanced with a 25-9 win over University of Immaculate Concepcion, UMD with a 25-23 win over Ateneo earlier in the day, and MSU with a 25-23 win over UMT in the morning matches.

In the women's side, MSU clinched a ticket to Boracay with a 25-10 victory over Capitol U, UMD with a previous 25-6 win over MSU, UMT with a 25-11 decision over Mahardika Institute of Technology, and HDCD with a 25-22 triumph over UMT.

Representing Luzon in Boracay are defending champion St. Benilde, FEU, Adamson and St. Francis in the men's side, and St. Benilde, Letran, Adamson and University of Baguio in the women's division.

From the Visayas, making it to the next round were Foundation, University of San Jose Recoletos, University of San Carlos and University of Negros Occ. Recoletos for the men's, and USJR, University of Visayas, University of San Agustin and University of Southern Philippines for the women's.

# *Paragua tackles 50 CAR players*

GRANDMASTER MARK PARAGUA WILL challenge leading CAR players in a 50-board simultaneous exhibition on April 7 at 2 p.m. at the Baguio Country Club in Baguio City.

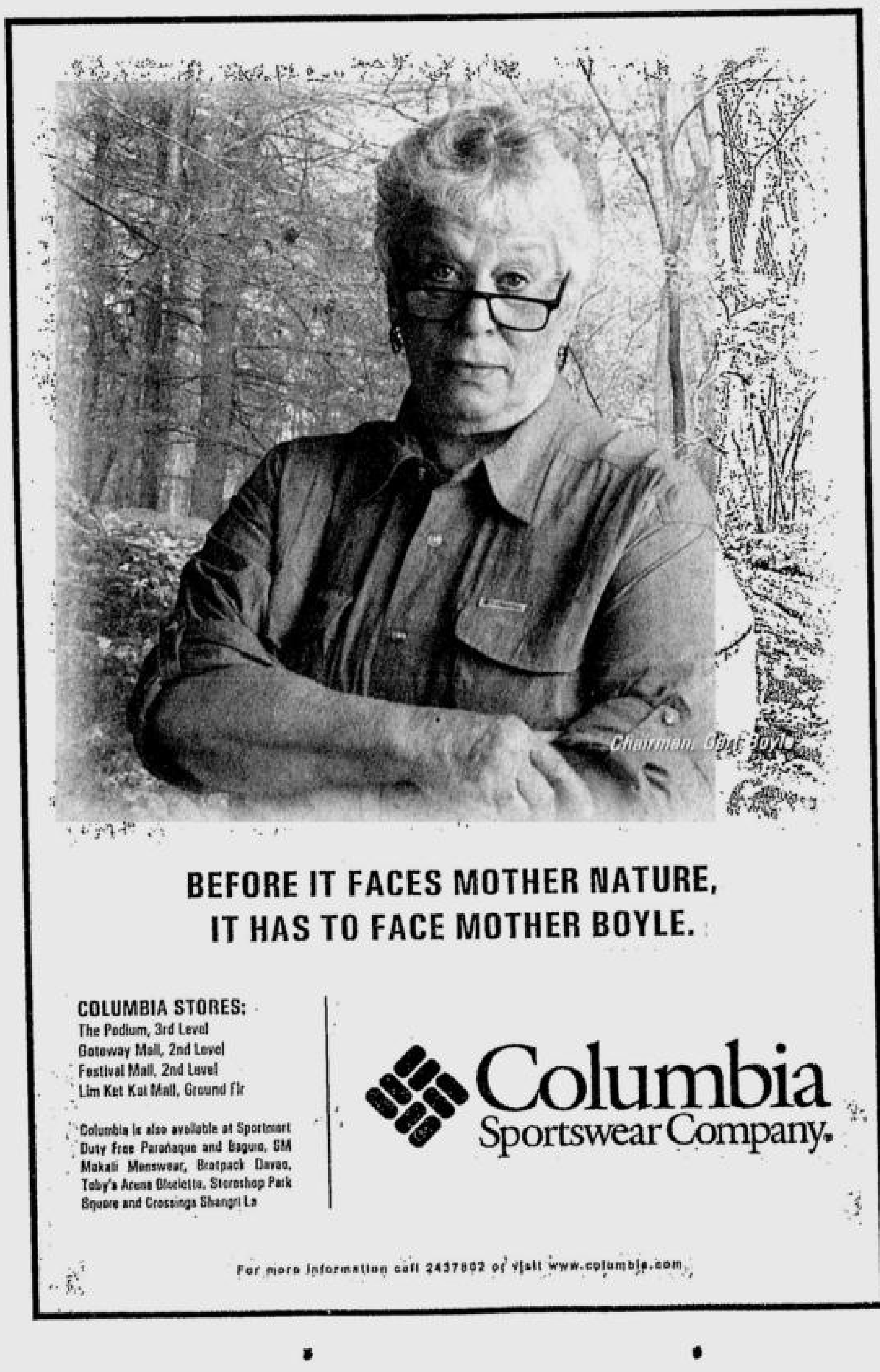
Paragua's exhibition will precede the 2006 Cordillerra Under-18 Chess Tournament on April 8 to 9 at the Cordillera Chess Center in Km3 Brgy. Balili in La Trinidad, Benguet.

The event is organized by former Benguet governor and National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) director Raul Molintas under the auspices of NCFP President and Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero "Butch" Pichay.

Players must register with Rocky Molintas at (0918) 948-1080 or visit the Cordillera Chess Center. Registration deadline is on April 6 at 5 pm.

Meanwhile, Paragua exchanged marriage vows with Christine Dacayo of Quezon City yesterday at 4 p.m. at the Divine Trust in Meycauayan, Bulacan.

Representative Pichay, Bulacan Gov. Josie Dela Cruz, Filway Marketings Inc. CEO/ President Hector "Chito" Tagaysay and engineer Albert "Ka Bito" Cruz stood as sponsors. NM Marlon Bernardino



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# Drag racing series starts April 8

THE 2006 RED HORSE-PCSO NATIONal Drag Racing Championship Series unwraps April 8 at the country's first permanent safe track—the Drag Strip of the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Drag Racing Driver of the Year Leo Joel Cordero hopes to keep his reign against some 60 drivers expected to compete in this event sponsored by Red Horse Beer, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and supported by Pilipinas Shell, Denso, Casino Filipino and Sparco.

But the bigger challenge for the competing drivers is breaking the existing fastest record of 11.833 seconds set by Blanche Racing's Dave Jota.

"The track design of the country's first permanent track added beauty to the successful staging of the 2005 season," said BRC drag racing direcxor Fil Gulfin." We're expecting more drivers to come and stake their pride in beating the record time."

For details, contact the Batangas Racing Circuit c/o BRC Manager Sherwin Mojica or Nelson Gayola at (632) 817-2241, 729-5365 or fax 815-1241.

# BAP defers filing arbitration case vs POC

**LATIN DANCE WINNERS:** Winners of the recent Dance Sport Council of the Philippines' Junior Grade A Latin competition with DSCP director Nanette Mendoza (right, front row) and German adjudicator Dr. Thomas Kokott. The winners are Jefferson Pimentel and Daine Xylenne Balili, first; Junil Bacalso and Virgianie Oyao, second; and Kevin Miñoza and Rodah Mae Fernandez, third.

By Jasmine W. Payo

SAYING IT'S AN "ORGANIZATIONAL MOVE," the Basketball Association of the Philippines yesterday deferred filing a case against the Philippine Olympic Committee at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland.

BAP president Joey Lina said he has decided to wait for the outcome of the meeting between POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco and world basketball federation (Fiba) secretary general Patrick Baumann on April 4.

"Everything is ready but we have decided to wait for (the results of) their meeting," said Lina. "It's an organizational move. We do not want to speculate. We'll just think about it later and refer the case (based) on the outcome of their meeting."

Lina added that the BAP has already tapped a Swiss-based lawyer.

Led by Cojuangco, several POC officials and representatives of the country's four major basketball stakeholders will meet with Baumann on April 4 in Seoul, South Korea.

Although the by-laws and constitution of Pilipinas Basketball has already been sent to the Fiba headquarters in Switzerland, Cojuangco decided to take the opportunity to personally inform Baumann that the new cage body designed to replace the BAP is backed by four of the five stakeholders— the PBA, PBL, UAAP and NCAA.

Lina, the fifth stakeholder, quit the group when the four stakeholders picked Pilipinas Basketball as the name of the new cage body.

Saying that the BAP had "exhausted all avenues," Lina announced in a press conference recently that the BAP will seek readmission in the POC by elevating the case to the CAS this month.

"As found out by Fiba, our expulsion is illegal and inappropriate," said Lina.

The CAS is an international institution that settles sports-related disputes. Created in 1984, it is independent of any sports organization and has nearly 300 arbitrators from 87 countries.

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## Sports keeps youth away from drugs

**CLEAN LIVING**

*Manolo R. Iñigo*

IT IS THE TIME OF THE YEAR WHEN THE country's students are on vacation and various sporting activities such as basketball, swimming, chess, badminton, taekwondo and running proliferate during the summer months.

Aimed chiefly at getting the young people into sports and keeping them away from drugs and other bad habits, three of the more popular summer programs are the Milo BEST Center Basketball Clinic, the Bert Lozada Swimming School and the Checkmate chess classes.

BEST Center is only one of several summer projects supported by Milo as a corporate commitment. The others include the annual Milo Marathon, Checkmate and clinics in taekwondo, gymnastics, badminton, golf, football, karatedo, volleyball, bowling, squash, table tennis and fencing.

Founded in 1978 by Nic Jorge, a former varsity player of the University of the Philippines Maroons and national team coach (he mentored the Philippine team that placed eighth in the World Basketball Championship hosted by the country in 1978 and at age 36 the youngest Filipino coach in the world cagefest in memory), BEST Center is the oldest among the various cage camps in the country today. It is also the first to teach the fundamentals of the dash-and-dribble game through a scientific and systematic approach.

Many of its products have learned to play basketball the proper way. In fact, some of them used their BEST Center experience as a ladder to success, among them two-time PBA Most Valuable Player Benjie Paras, PBA Coach of the Year Perry Ronquillo, defense specialist Jerry Codiñera, who is now calling the shots for newcomer Teletech in the PBL; PBA Rookies of the Year Jun Limpot and Boybits Victoria, PBA players Paolo Mendoza, Rey Evangelista, Patrick Fran and Poch Juinio.

Because of its mass appeal, BEST clinics are now being held all over the country from as far as Davao City in the south and Ilocos Sur in the north. San Pablo City will also host a BEST clinic on May 22-27 under the auspices of youthful BJ Cuello (tels. 049-2465377, 049-8003015 and 0921-5714355.)

During the weeklong sessions, the young participants are taught not only the basics of basketball, but also sound values such as discipline, sportsmanship and camaraderie. They are also taught to respect their elders and obey their coaches, priceless lessons they will carry through their adult life.

On the other hand, the Bert Lozada Swim School (BLSS) not only teaches the students how to swim, but also (the adults especially) how to overcome their fear of water, improve their stamina and help them lose excess weight through its Confidence Booster Program (CBP.)

CBP is the answer to those people who grew up not learning how to swim. It is noted that while many parents enroll their children in swimming classes, they themselves don't even try to learn how to float, reluctant to take the plunge. This program teaches them how to conquer their phobia and feel comfortable in the water. There will be month-long classes to be conducted in May (venue and exact dates to be announced later) combining dry land sessions and in-pool exercises aimed at gradually strengthening a student's confidence.

In chess, there is the pioneering Checkmate classes founded by Mila Emperado in 1990. Among its most prominent product is grandmaster Mark Paragua, now rated as the country's No. 1 player by Fide (world chess federation.) Based in Bulacan, Paragua lives in the town of Marilao, where a fun run under the aegis of Barangay Tabing-Ilog chair Juanito Dimacali and executive officer Dionisio San Pablo will be held the Sunday after the Holy Week.

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# Nets cruise to 10th straight victory

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**TEACH 'EM YOUNG:** The Milo BEST Center, founded by Nic Jorge, has produced many graduates who have gone on to play in the PBA. For inquiries, call 914-7111 or Marilyn and Monica Jorge at 411-6260 or 372-3066 or telefax 672-3065.

**NEW YORK—RICHARD JEFFERSON scored 27 points to guide the streaking New Jersey Nets to their 10th straight win with an 86-74 victory over the Memphis Grizzlies on Wednesday.**

Vince Carter added 23 points as the Nets equaled their season-high consecutive win streak.

New Jersey (42-28) were on top for most of the night, leading by as many as 23 points in the third quarter, on their way to winning for the 20th time in 23 home games.

Jason Kidd dished off 12 assists for the Nets, along with five points and five rebounds, to help New Jersey take a 50-31 lead at the half.

New Jersey has been impressive during the 10-game streak, winning seven by double-digits and three against powerhouses Dallas, Phoenix and Detroit.

Pau Gasol had 21 points and eight rebounds for the Grizzlies, while Bobby Jackson added 18 points in 26 minutes off the bench.

It was the third lowest point total of the season for the Grizzlies, who had won six of their previous seven coming in.

In Cleveland, LeBron James scored 46 points as the Cavaliers beat the Dallas Mavericks, 107-94. Zydrunas Ilgauskas scored 13 points for the Cavaliers.

In Atlanta, Al Harrington scored 23 points as the Hawks edged the Indiana Pacers, 94-93. Zaza Pachulia scored 17 points for the Hawks.

In Toronto, Dwyane Wade scored 37 points as the Miami Heat rallied to beat the Raptors, 98-94. Antoine Walker scored 18 points and had 10 rebounds, while Udonis Haslem added 15 points and had 13 rebounds for the Heat.

In New York, Paul Pierce and Wally Szczerbiak both scored 22 points as the Boston Celtics beat the New York Knicks, 123-98.

In Philadelphia, Chauncey Billups and Antonio McDyess both scored 18 points as the Detroit Pistons beat the 76ers, 101-91.

In Minneapolis, Kevin Garnett scored 27 points and had 19 rebounds as the Minnesota Timberwolves beat the Orlando Magic, 103-91.

In Houston, Yao Ming scored 29 points and had 10 rebounds as the Rockets beat the Seattle Supersonics, 115-87.

SOLAR Sports will air the San Antoino-LA Lakers tussle at 11:30 a.m. today with a replay at 8 p.m. *Reuters*

**TRAIL Blazers' Zach Rand**

## Former UE cager dies

CARLOS F. Quitzon, a former University of the East Warrior, popularly known as Bobby, peacefully passed away in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, recently at the age of 67. He left a wife, Erlinda, and two children, namely, Robert (Bobby) Jr. and married daughter Karen. Bobby Quitzon graduated with a degree in Commerce, major in banking. He played for the UE Warriors for four years when the Warriors won three UAAP titles. Some of his teammates were Olympians Jimmy Mariano and Roehl Nadurata, as well as Norman De Vera and the late Rizaldo Pabillore. Bobby is one of the finest and best shooters who donned the Red Warriors jersey. He worked and played in the commercial league with Peoples Bank and with the Central Bank of the Philippines.

## SM wushu

THERE will be a two-day wushu mini-tournament and demonstration this weekend (April 1-2) at SM Manila. The event kicks off a busy summer schedule not only for wushu enthusiasts but also for taekwondo and football fans at the SM chain of malls. Wushu will be held in 11 of 22 SM branches nationwide. Taekwondo is slated in 18 of the 22 shops while football will be played in 14 of its outlets, according to the organizing IMG. Taekwondo will hold its competitions on April 3-4 at SM North Edsa before SM Sucat hosts a tournament on April 5-6.

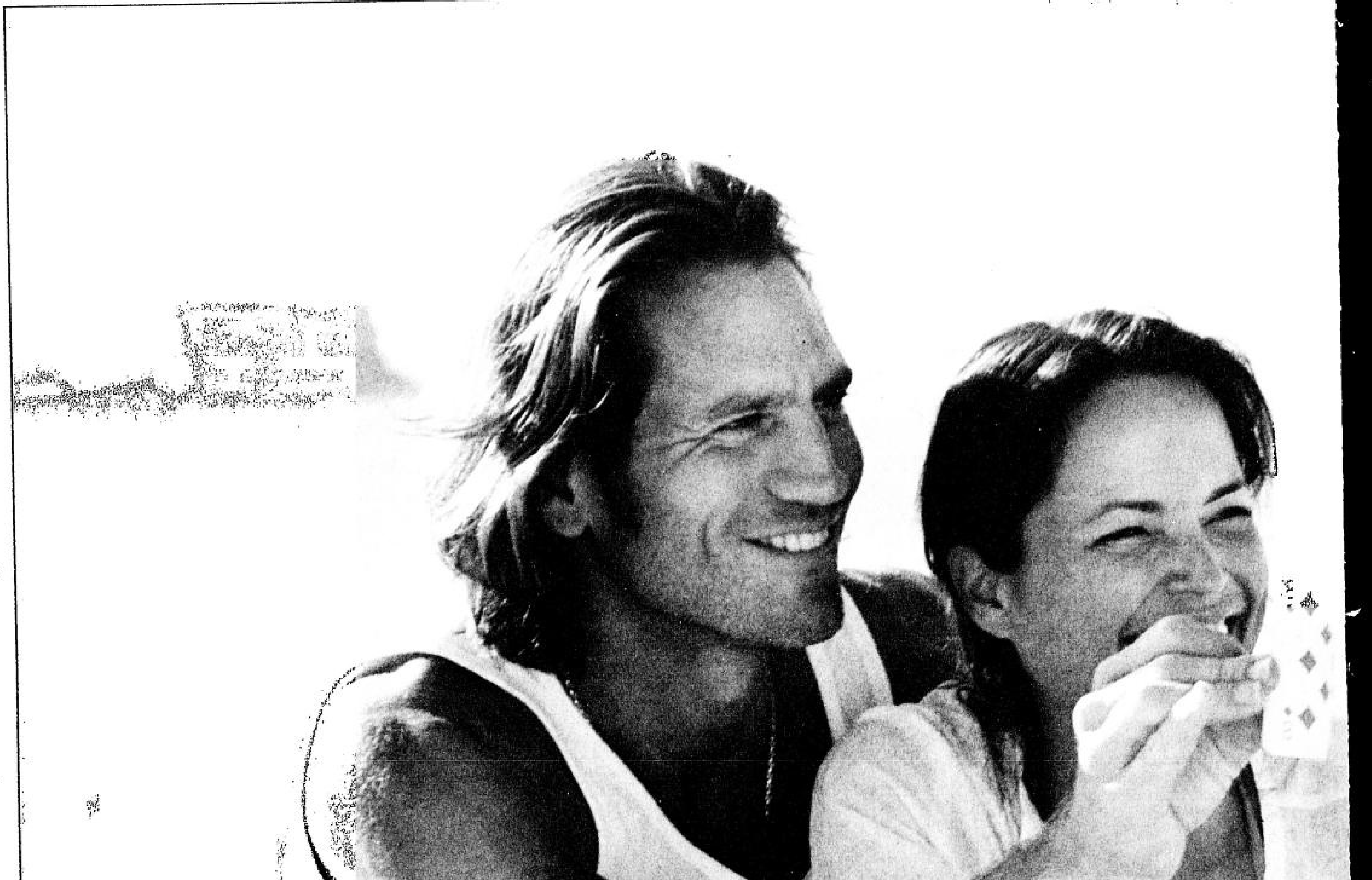
## Gals bigger

THE GIRLS Athletic League (GALS), one of the country's most popular all-girls inter-school athletic tournaments, feted its sponsors led by Reva of Unisport Italia and supporters BPI Jumpstart, Toby's Sports, Pizza Hut, Snickers, Chowking and Enderun Colleges at the La Salle Greenhills recently.

## RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—From This Moment (6), Golden Number (5), Dona Nee/Santiago (4), Guardian (1)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Screaming Eagle (8), Wine and Roses (1), El Love Senora (5), Daldalera/Garbo's Fancy (3)
Race 3—(Tri)—Born Perfect (3), Danielle's Angel (4), Run Doding Fly (5)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Hello Africa (7), St. Jek Jek (2), Secret Angel (1), Hale and Hearty (6)
Race 5—(Quartet/Tri)—Virgin Island (6), Souther Prince (5), Imperator (1), Chelseasmile (2)
Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Mary Jane Bomb (2), Fancy Dancer (5), Music Quest (6), Imperator (1)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Batong Silyar (2), Mr. Lucas (5), Yao Man (3), Aim and Fire (9), Makati Haven (8)
Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—Western Dancer (1), Cool Turner (3), Ravishing Rafly (6), Fair Urduja/Red Hot Water (5)
Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Spinning Bullet (9), Cool Town (11), Odyssey (2), Earth Wind And Fire (3), Key Element (5), Luck of the Irish (8)



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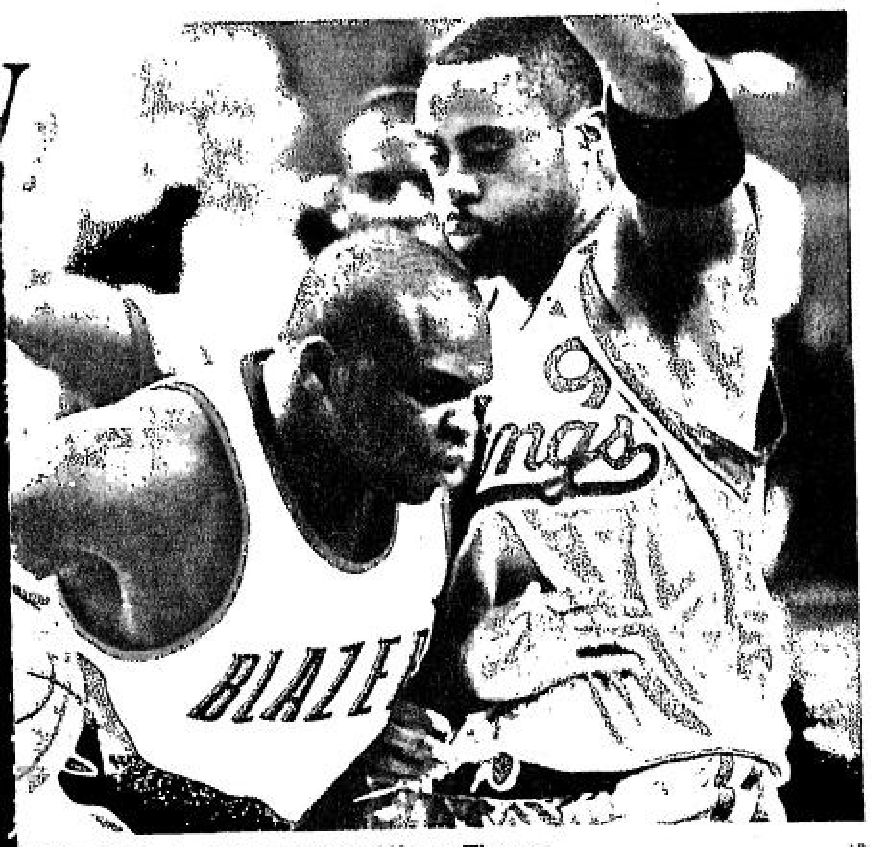


lph (left) tries to drive past Kings' Kenny Thomas. AP

# Sharapova gains semis

MIAMI—MARIA SHARAPOVA POWERED INto her fifth semifinal in as many events this season with a 6-3 6-3 defeat of Russian rival Anastasia Myskina at the Nasdaq-100 Open on Wednesday.

The fourth seed will play Moscow-born Frenchwoman Tatiana Golovin, who ended the run of China's Zheng Jie with a scrappy 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 victory in the quarters.

Men's sixth seed Ivan Ljubicic had an easier outing after he produced 34 winners to sweep past Argentine Agustin Calleri, 7-6, 6-3, and into the semis. The win kept the Croatian second behind Roger Federer in match victories this season. While the world number one boasts a 25-1 record in 2006, Ljubicic stands at 24-3.

Ljubicic's fellow Croat Mario Ancic was unable to get past his Argentine opponent third seed David Nalbandian, though, falling to a 6-2, 6-2, loss.

Sharapova's triumph in the battle of former grand slam winners put her within two more victories of a second consecutive title after winning in Indian Wells less than a fortnight ago.

"I knew I had to be consistent against her," Sharapova told reporters. "She's not going to overpower me, she's just going to try to make me hit another ball.

"I took my opportunities, took my chances, and that was important." The 18-year-old, runner-up here to Kim Clijsters last year, held her nerve after losing three of four times against Myskina in 2004.

Five of the nine games in the second set were breaks of serve as momentum shifted back and forth. Sharapova finished the winner on Myskina's forehand wide.

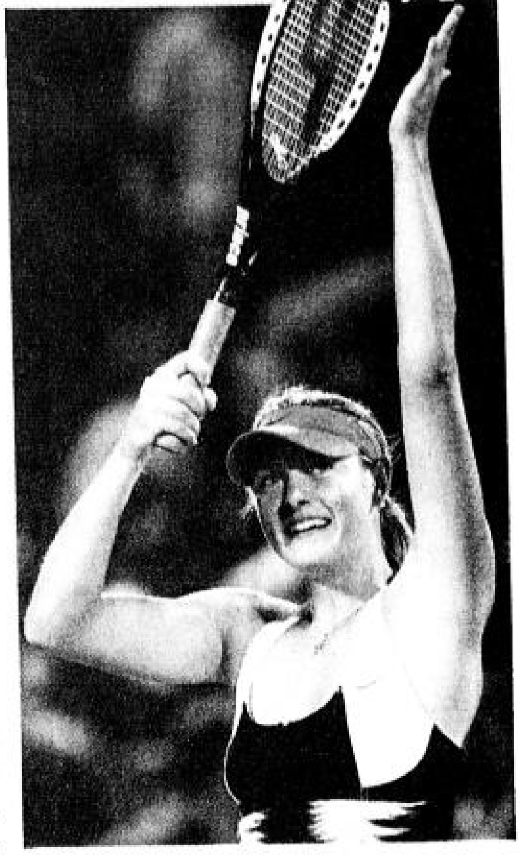
Sharapova has beaten fellow teenager Golovin both times they have met.

Golovin needed more than two hours to claim victory on Jie's fourth double fault. Jie had been the first Chinese woman reach the last eight at Miami.

The match was plagued by 27 break points as holding serve became a chore. Golovin converted eight of her 14 chances, while Jie was successful on six of 13.

With Golovin yet to beat Sharapova, the Frenchwoman knows she will have her work cut out.

*Reuters*



**SHARAPOVA** greets crowd after victory. AP

## Cantonjos triumphs

A2C Allan Cantonjos, a member of the Philippine Air Force chess team, scored 6 points in 7 rounds to top the 2006 National Chess Federation of the Philippines Region 4 Elimination in Cabuyao, Laguna, and take home the P7,000 cash prize and trophy. The event was bankrolled by Cabuyao Mayor Nila Aguillo. Cantonjos and the other qualifiers from Region IV advanced to the semifinals of the 2006 Chess Olympiad in May. Ricafort, Butch Villavieja, and Richie Jocson scored 5.5 points to tie for second to fourth places. Vicente Vargas had five points to land fifth. Other qualifiers were Michael Teves, Ruel Gonzales, Michael Palma, Manny Yu, Dennis San Juan, Ferdinand Palermo, Henry Rafols, Ceferino Vizco, Ryan Dungca, John Perzeus Orozco, Henry Boroc, Balben Corpuz and Aaron Krishna. ***NM Marlon Bernardino***

## PCCderby

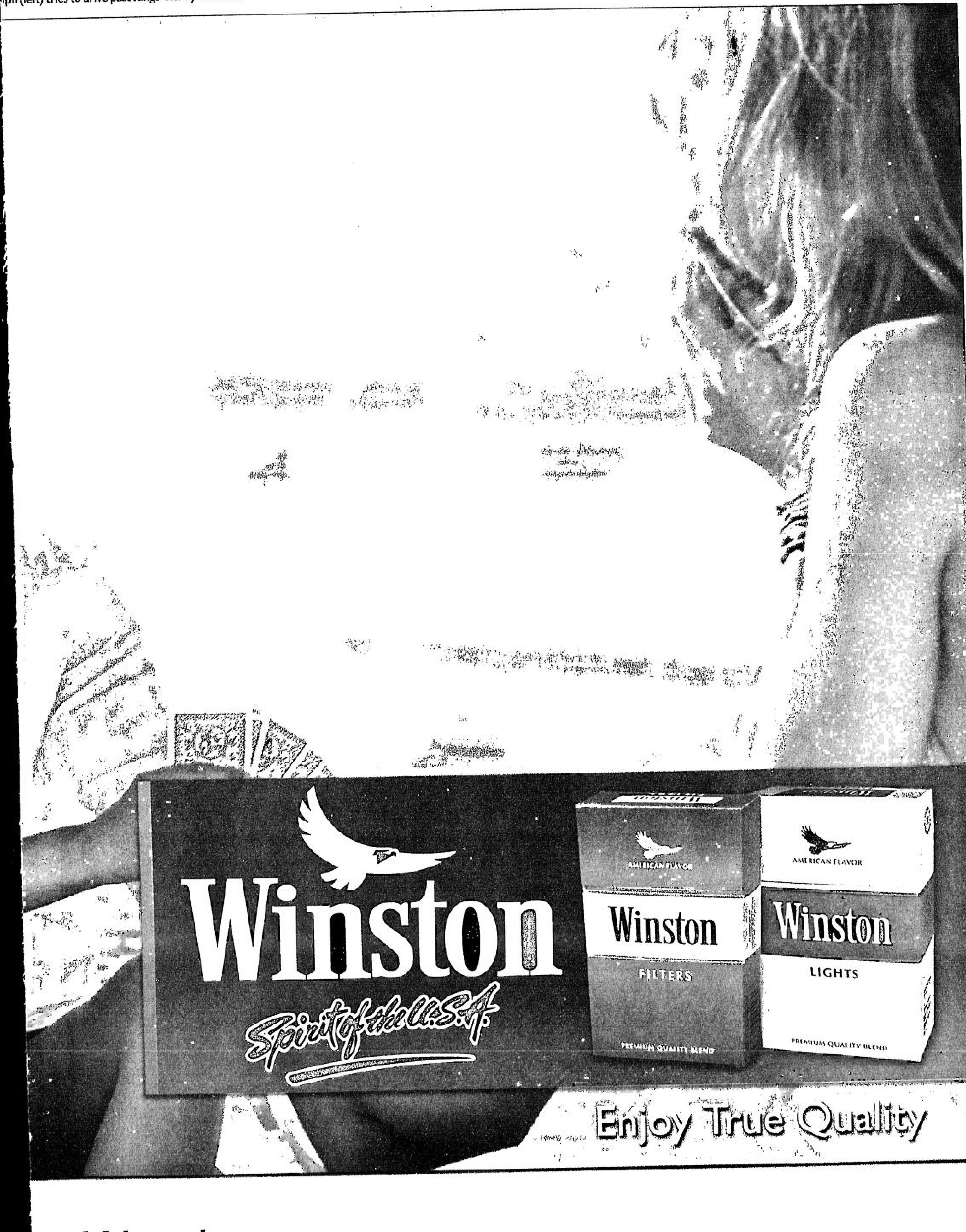
BIG-TIME cockfighting shifts to Pasay City Cockpit today with the staging of another 4-cock derby featuring 60 fights. The derby, supported by Sagupaan Complexor 3000, is hosted by Tony Lasala of San Luis entry. Among those competing for the P300,000 top purse are Benjie Lim, Pol Estrellado, Jun Topacio, Patrick Antonio, Mayor Dennis Pineda, Pepito Ngo, Boy Royo, Jake Macasaet, Madlambayan brothers, Lito Roque, Ric de Guzman, Maj. Bobby Doromal, Boy Layag, Dodie Villarubio, Rey Briones, Rep. Butch Pichay, Rep. Jing Paras and Rudy Albano. Call 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816- 750.

## P4.4M pot

AN IRRESISTIBLE prize of P4.4 million, which is guaranteed by WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp., will be up for grabs in the Summer Salpukan 6-cock derby on April 26, 29, May 2, 4, 6, 11 and 13 at Makati Coliseum. Promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co of WTJ said that aside from the P3 million cash prize, the winners will also get two brand-new Toyota cars and two motorcycles. Entry fee is P11,000. The champions will get their prizes after the derby. Contact 896–3545.

## RCI wins

RED Creek I (RCI) of Iggy Arroyo and Boy Jiao bested Binangonan Balbina I of the Ito Ynares and Richard Bates, and Mulawin C. VGB of F. Berin to rule the championship round Thursday night of the National Cockers Association's end-of-March 7-cock derby at the Roligon Mega Cockpit. The next NCA derby is scheduled April 4 and 8, hosted by Boy Velez, Johnny Jalandoni, Boy Jiao and Amboy Manlapaz. It will be the first of three NCA 7-cock derbies for the month. RCI posted 5.5 points.



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Sun Valley Crew, Akafellas,
K24/7 and Southborder

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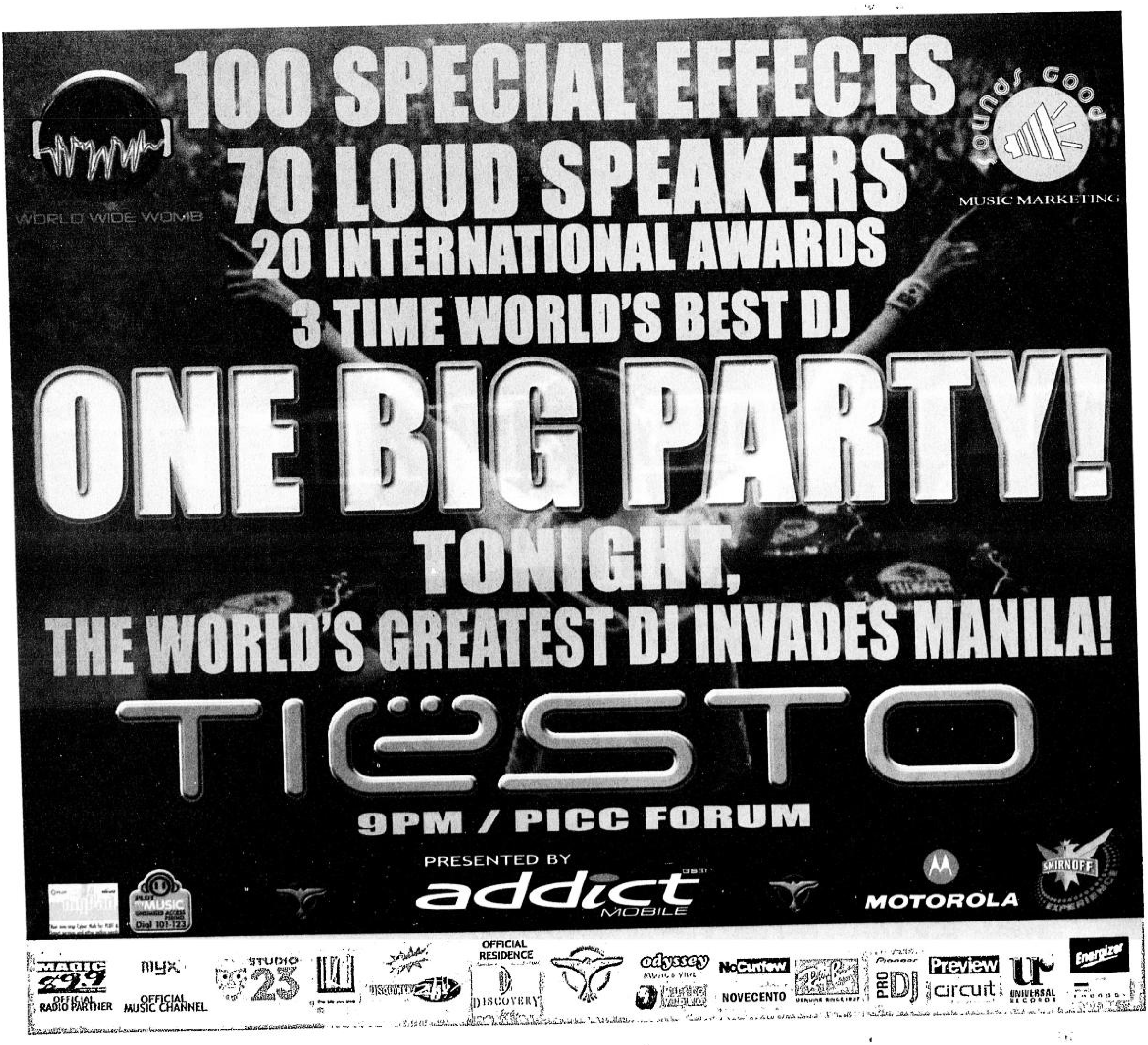

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PRO DJ Pioneer

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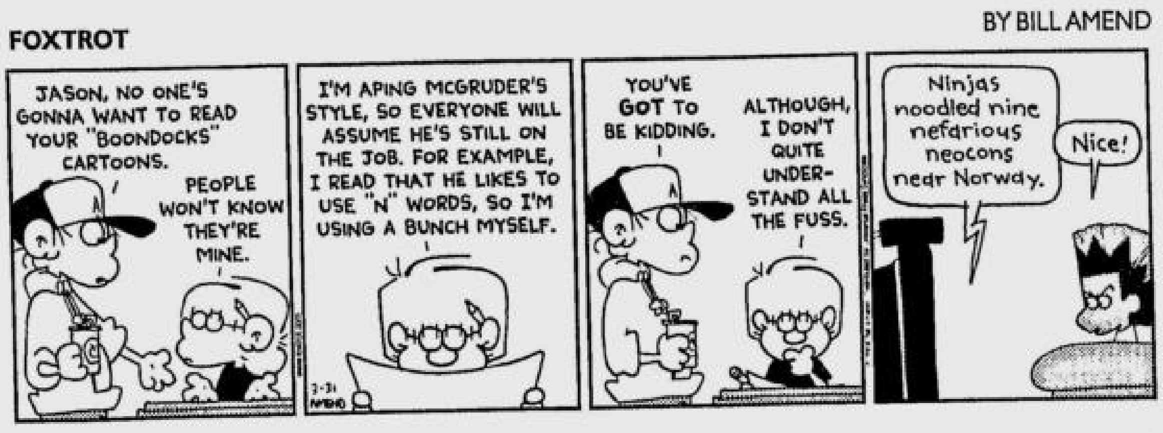
circuit

UNIVERSAL RECORDS

Energizer

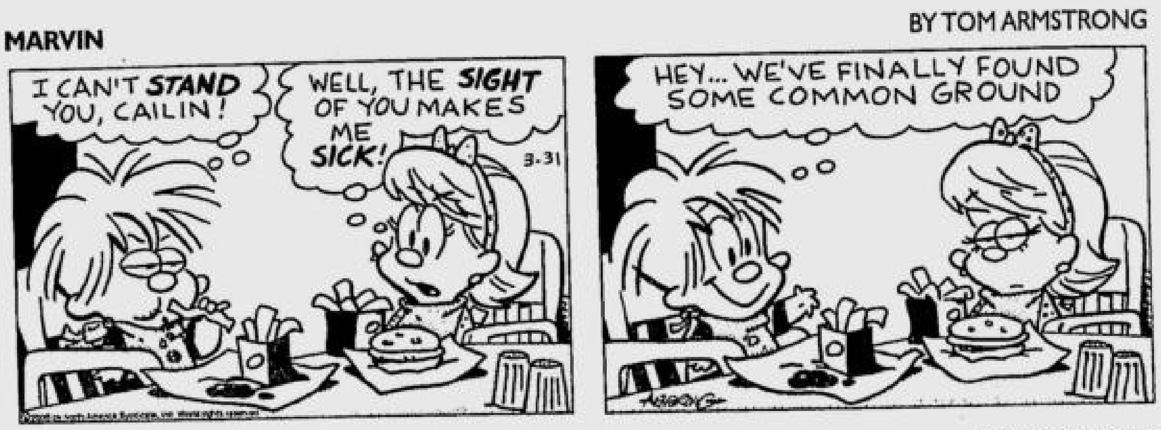
## FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


JASON, NO ONE'S GONNA WANT TO READ YOUR "BOONDOCKS" CARTOONS.
PEOPLE WON'T KNOW THEY'RE MINE.
I'M APING MCGRUDER'S STYLE, SO EVERYONE WILL ASSUME HE'S STILL ON THE JOB. FOR EXAMPLE, I READ THAT HE LIKES TO USE "N" WORDS, SO I'M USING A BUNCH MYSELF.
3-31 AMEND
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING.
ALTHOUGH, I DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND ALL THE FUSS.
Ninjas noodled nine nefarious neocons near Norway.
Nice!

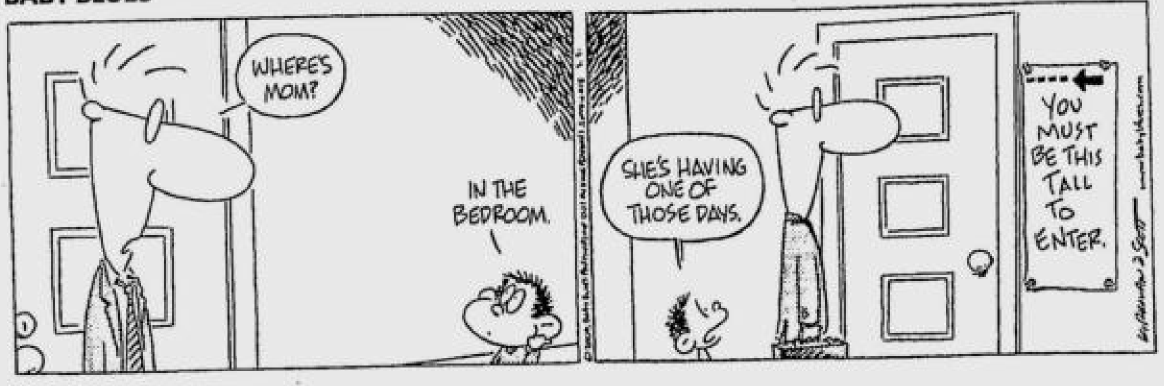
## MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I CAN'T STAND YOU, CAILIN!
WELL, THE SIGHT OF YOU MAKES ME SICK!
3-31
HEY... WE'VE FINALLY FOUND SOME COMMON GROUND

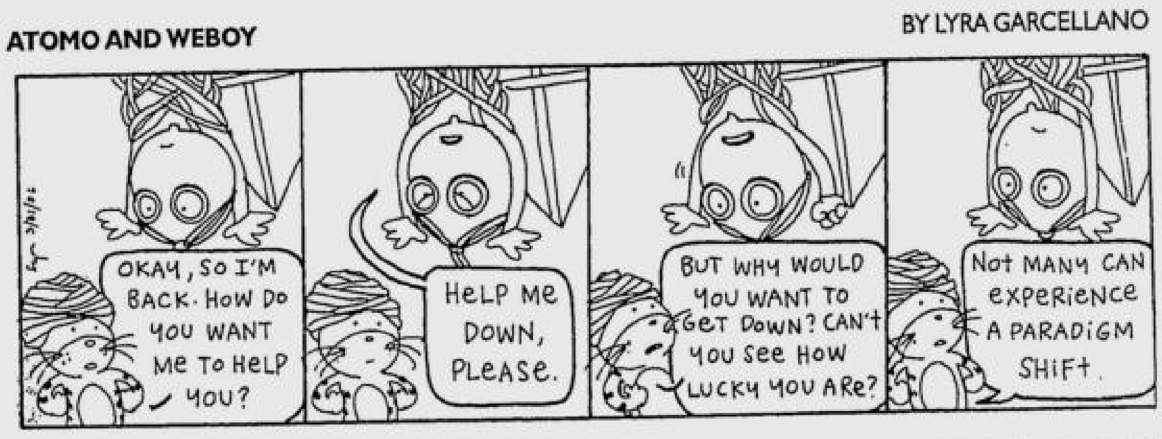
## BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHERE'S MOM?
IN THE BEDROOM.
SHE'S HAVING ONE OF THOSE DAYS.
YOU MUST BE THIS TALL TO ENTER.

## ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


OKAY, SO I'M BACK. HOW DO YOU WANT ME TO HELP YOU?
HELP ME DOWN, PLEASE.
BUT WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO GET DOWN? CAN'T YOU SEE HOW LUCKY YOU ARE?
NOT MANY CAN EXPERIENCE A PARADIGM SHIFT.

# HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

**YOU BORN TODAY:** You're determined. You never give up if you believe strongly in something. Essentially, you're a fighter. However, you're also an excellent team player. You're witty, lighthearted and yet you have nerves of steel. You know how to survive in changing times. The year ahead is excellent for partnerships and relationships. It's an excellent year for marriage. Enjoy social times!

**Birthdate of:** Pavel Bure, hockey player; Gordie Howe, hockey player; Ewan McGregor, actor.

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19):** You feel a bit territorial about your possessions today. Don't worry. If you don't want to share something, you don't have to. (This possessive feeling will pass soon.)

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20):** The Moon is in your sign today. In all likelihood, it will make you feel a bit more emotional about something. But it's nothing you can't handle. In fact, things tend to go your way today.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20):** You need some time by yourself today. A little peace and quiet will help you sort through something. Sneak off and grab some solitude.

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22):** Conversations with a female friend or friends will be significant today. Enjoy the company of others. Someone may feel the need to share a secret with you or confide in you in some way.

**LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22):** You're generally aware of your actions. However, forewarned is forearmed. Today, something rather public will occur where people notice you, no matter how briefly.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22):** Because you have a strong need for adventure today and a desire to learn something new, give yourself an opportunity to do something different. Go someplace you've never been before.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22):** You might want to sit down with someone and sort out how to share something. Perhaps you need to spend an allotted amount of money? Either way, you need the cooperation of others today.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21):** The Moon opposite your sign draws your attention to partners and close friends today. Listen carefully to others. Perhaps someone needs to tell you something important.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21):** It's been said that it's a joy to labor for those you love. Today you can discover how true this maxim is. Enjoy your involvement in your work.

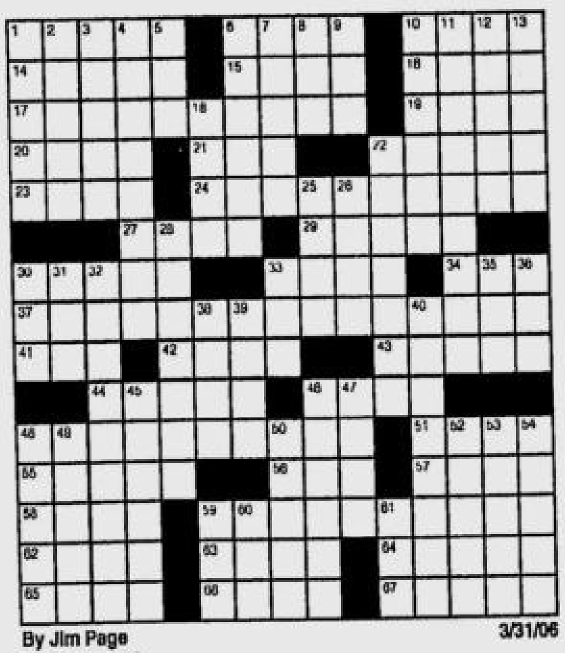
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19):** You feel playful and prankish today! Expect flirtations and fun romance. Time spent with children in playful activities will please you.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18):** Discussions with parents and family members are significant today. Be sure you make time to allow others to talk about what's important to them.

**PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20):** Conversations with siblings and relatives could reassure you about something. You need to feel that someone agrees with you today. Don't worry—this person will.

# DAILY CROSSWORD

**ACROSS**
1 Pagan gods
6 Cheese coated in wax
10 Little snakes
14 Playful caper
15 Be an also-ran
16 Flaming Gorge state
17 Kind of parade
19 Window part
20 Singer Brickell
21 Quick-cash source
22 Thirst-quencher
23 Hayes of "Will and Grace"
24 Spacecraft protector
27 Sun. talks
29 Filaments
30 Counter snake?
33 Lend a hand
34 Fairy queen
37 Write and send hurriedly
41 Bagged brew
42 Declared
43 Sleep disorder
44 Carnivals
46 Rob or Edmund
48 Goes in haste
51 "Breaker-breaker" buddy
55 "When We Dead Awaken" dramatist
56 Utmost degree
57 Scholarly book
58 Golfer "Champagne Tony"
59 Like asbestos
62 Russian emperor
63 Hosiery shade
64 Savor
65 Dispatch
66 Hwy. abbrevs.
67 Take in pants, e.g.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3/31/06

By Jim Page
New York, NY

**DOWN**
1 "Psycho" motel
2 Battery terminal
3 Sky-lit courtyards
4 Card holder
5 TCU or MIT
6 Select social classes
7 Religious doctrine
8 Blond shade
9 Shea baseballer
10 Mother's helper
11 Distinguished political leader
12 Committee
13 Piece of broken pottery
18 Bolger and Haley's co-star
22 Two-man crosscut
25 Those ones
26 Bargain hunter's delight
28 Geographical shaper
30 Tiller locale
31 Run out of gas
32 Architect
33 Once owned
35 Vital statistic
36 Actress Arthur
38 Casino game
39 Pugilist's weapon
40 Ghostly
45 Frightened, in the Ozarks
46 Test paper?
47 Will-___-wisp
48 Handles of weapons
49 Very chubby
50 Kind of drum
52 Leg-up
53 Behave theatrically
54 Pass on (to)
59 Not "agin"
60 D-Day craft
61 School org.

### Thursday's Puzzle Solved

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L | A | S | E | R | ■ | L | I | S | P | S | ■ | A | L | T |
| A | G | O | N | Y | ■ | I | D | E | A | L | ■ | R | O | O |
| M | A | N | C | A | N | N | O | T | L | I | V | E | O | N |
| E | R | G | O | ■ | E | E | L | S | ■ | C | E | A | S | E |
| ■ | ■ | B | R | E | A | D | ■ | ■ | T | E | R | S | E | R |
| S | L | I | E | S | T | ■ | S | H | E | D | S | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| W | O | R | S | T | ■ | L | A | I | C | ■ | E | C | H | O |
| A | L | D | ■ | A | L | O | N | E | H | E | ■ | O | A | T |
| G | A | S | P | ■ | O | W | E | D | ■ | T | O | N | T | O |
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| H | A | V | E | C | R | E | D | I | T | C | A | R | D | S |
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| B | A | R | ■ | S | T | A | R | E | ■ | S | T | E | M | S |

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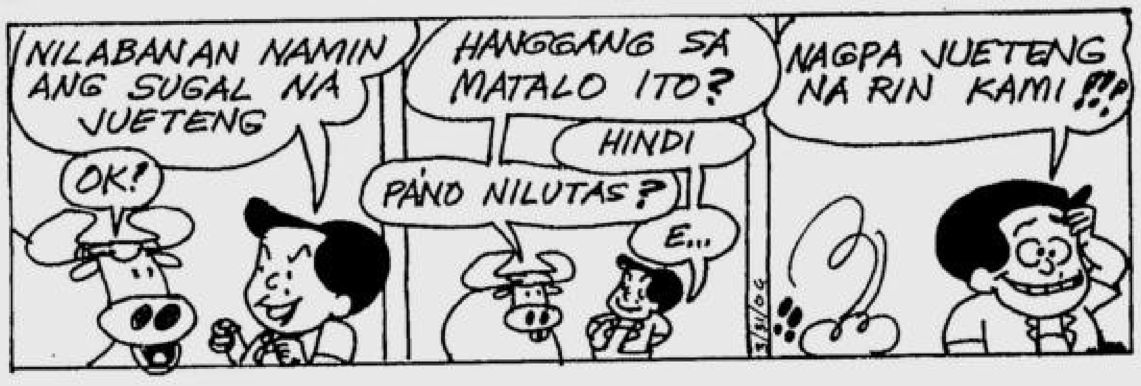
3/31/06

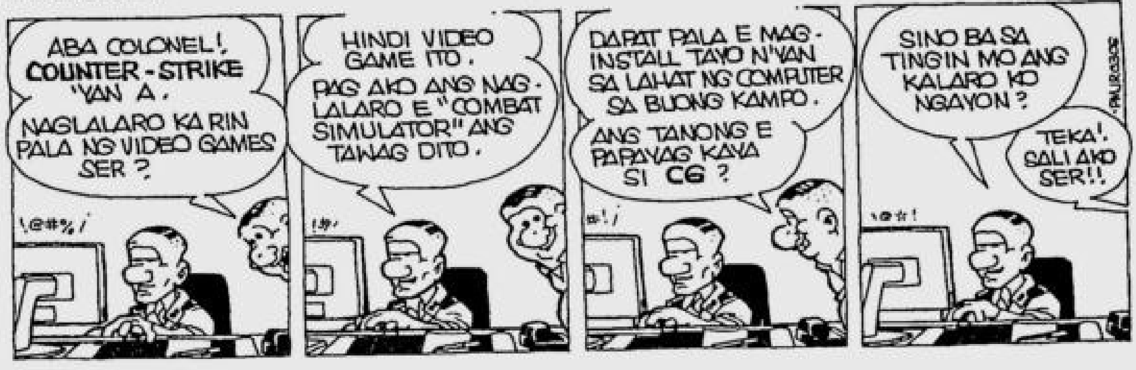
## A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


NILABANAN NAMIN ANG SUGAL NA JUETENG
OK!
HANGGANG SA MATALO ITO?
HINDI
PANO NILUTAS?
E...
3/31/06
NAGPA JUETENG NA RIN KAMI!!!

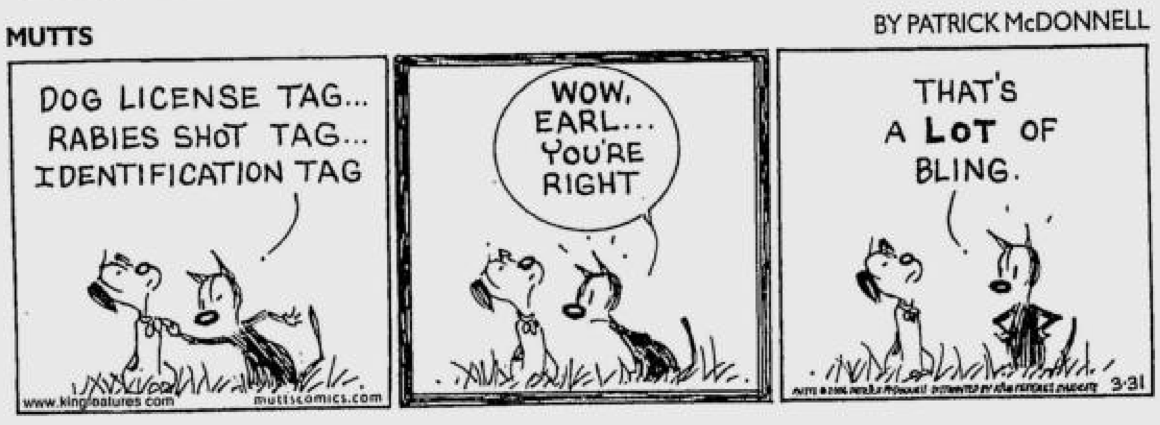
## PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ABA COLONEL!, COUNTER-STRIKE 'YAN A.
NAGLALARO KA RIN PALA NG VIDEO GAMES SER?
!@#%!
HINDI VIDEO GAME ITO.
PAG AKO ANG NAGLALARO E "COMBAT SIMULATOR" ANG TAWAG DITO.
DAPAT PALA E MAG-INSTALL TAYO N'YAN SA LAHAT NG COMPUTER SA BUONG KAMPO.
ANG TANONG E PAPAYAG KAYA SI CG?
SINO BA SA TINGIN MO ANG KALARO KO NGAYON?
TEKA!, SALI AKO SER!!
PALAROSOS

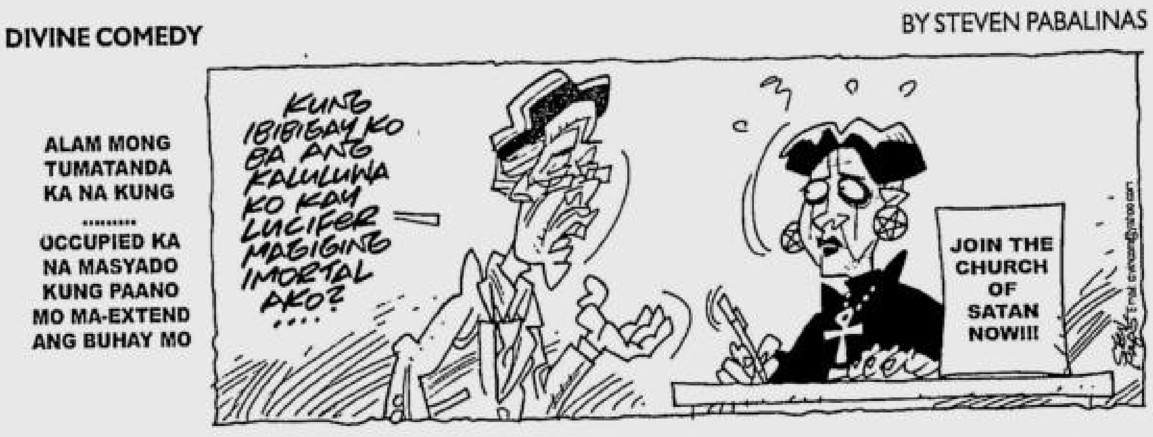
## MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


DOG LICENSE TAG... RABIES SHOT TAG... IDENTIFICATION TAG
WOW, EARL... YOU'RE RIGHT
THAT'S A LOT OF BLING.
www.kingfeatures.com
muttscomics.com
3-31

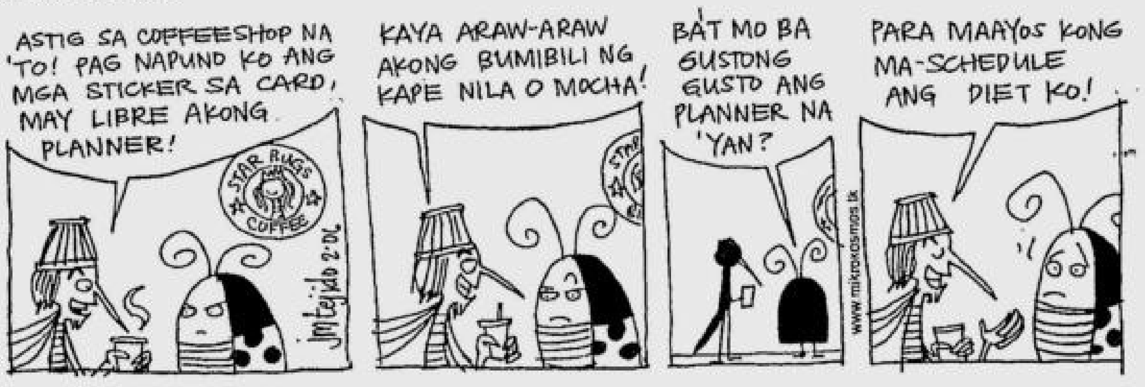
## DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


ALAM MONG TUMATANDA KA NA KUNG
..........
OCCUPIED KA NA MASYADO KUNG PAANO MO MA-EXTEND ANG BUHAY MO
KUNG IBIBIGAY KO BA ANG KALULUWA KO KAY LUCIFER MAGIGING IMORTAL AKO?
JOIN THE CHURCH OF SATAN NOW!!!

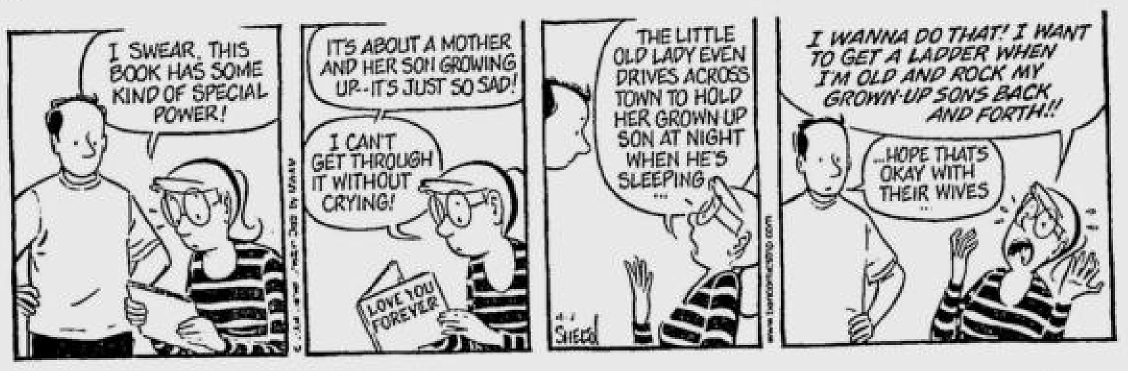
## MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ASTIG SA COFFEESHOP NA 'TO! PAG NAPUNO KO ANG MGA STICKER SA CARD, MAY LIBRE AKONG PLANNER!
STAR RUGS COFFEE
KAYA ARAW-ARAW AKONG BUMIBILI NG KAPE NILA O MOCHA!
BAT MO BA GUSTONG GUSTO ANG PLANNER NA 'YAN?
PARA MAAYOS KONG MA-SCHEDULE ANG DIET KO!
www.mikrokosmos.tk

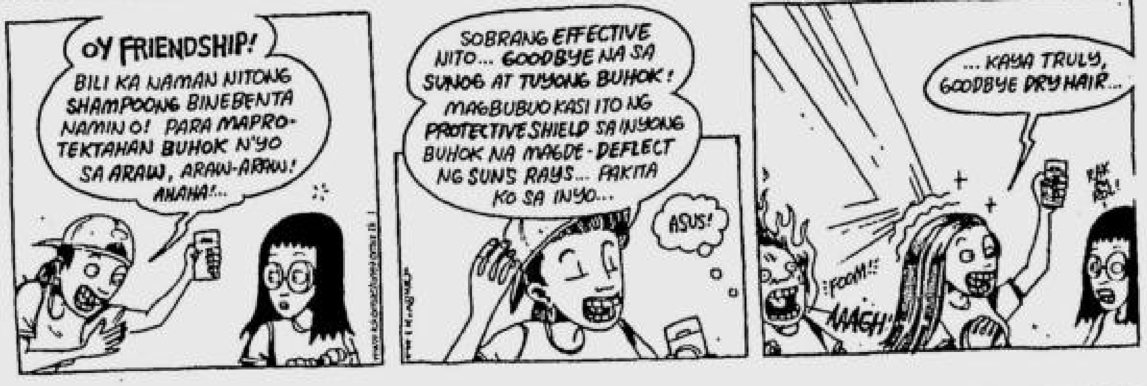
## BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I SWEAR, THIS BOOK HAS SOME KIND OF SPECIAL POWER!
IT'S ABOUT A MOTHER AND HER SON GROWING UP - IT'S JUST SO SAD!
I CAN'T GET THROUGH IT WITHOUT CRYING!
LOVE YOU FOREVER
THE LITTLE OLD LADY EVEN DRIVES ACROSS TOWN TO HOLD HER GROWN-UP SON AT NIGHT WHEN HE'S SLEEPING...
SHELD
I WANNA DO THAT! I WANT TO GET A LADDER WHEN I'M OLD AND ROCK MY GROWN-UP SONS BACK AND FORTH!!
...HOPE THAT'S OKAY WITH THEIR WIVES...

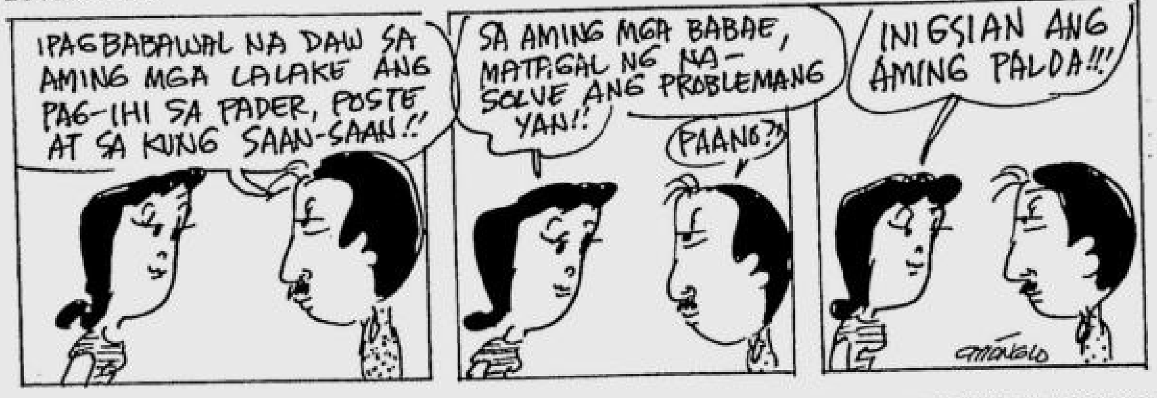
## KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


OY FRIENDSHIP!
BILI KA NAMAN NITONG SHAMPOONG BINEBENTA NAMIN O! PARA MAPROTEKTAHAN BUHOK N'YO SA ARAW, ARAW-ARAW! ANAHA!...
SOBRANG EFFECTIVE NITO... GOODBYE NA SA SUNOG AT TUYONG BUHOK!
MAGBUBUO KASI ITO NG PROTECTIVE SHIELD SA INYONG BUHOK NA MAGDE-DEFLECT NG SUN'S RAYS... PAKITA KO SA INYO...
ASUS!
... KAYA TRULY, GOODBYE DRY HAIR...
FOOM!!
AAAGH!

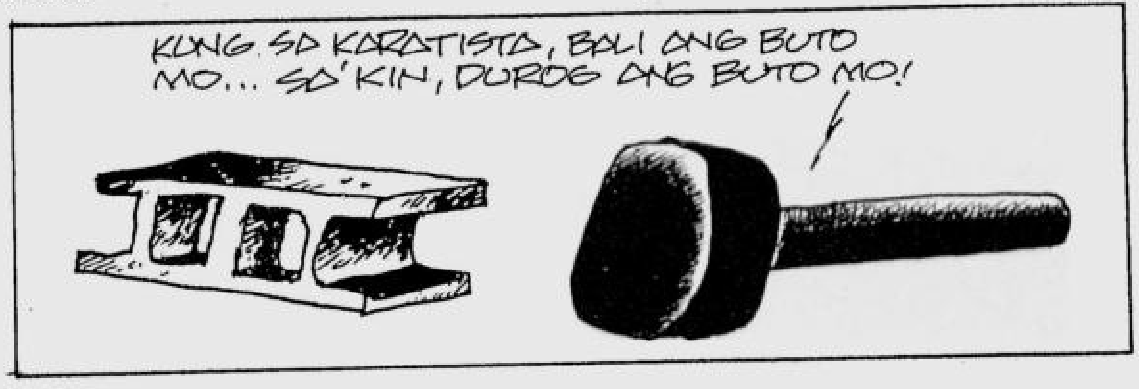
## LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


IPAGBABAWAL NA DAW SA AMING MGA LALAKE ANG PAG-IHI SA PADER, POSTE AT SA KUNG SAAN-SAAN!!
SA AMING MGA BABAE, MATAGAL NG NA-SOLVE ANG PROBLEMANG YAN!!
PAANO?
INIGSIAN ANG AMING PALDA!!!
CHIONGLO

## TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


KUNG SA KARATISTA, BALI ANG BUTO MO... SA'KIN, DUROG ANG BUTO MO!

Gear up for the SUMMER in the HOTTEST badminton event this season!
Enjoy shopping madness until midnight in the BIGGEST BADMINTON SALE of the year!

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
IN COOPERATION WITH
Mizuno kimoni GOSEN
PRESENT
INQUIRER Badminton EXPO YEAR 3
EVERYTHING IN BADMINTON UNDER ONE ROOF
APRIL 22 & 23, 2006 | ROCKWELL TENT
SHOPPING HOURS: APRIL 22, SATURDAY, 12:00 NOON TO 12:00 MIDNIGHT
APRIL 23, SUNDAY, 10:00AM TO 10:00PM

APR 22 SATURDAY
4 - 6 PM Special Mizuno Activity
6 - 8 PM Kimoni Celebrity Challenge
8 - 12 MN Open House Party

APR 23 SUNDAY
9 - 10 AM Holy Mass
4 - 6 PM Special Mizuno Activity
6 - 8 PM Kimoni Celebrity Challenge

For general inquiries, please call Ching Dela Cruz at 897-8808 local 259/263.
For inquiries about the Mizuno event, pls. call Nicole Coromina at 757-3160.

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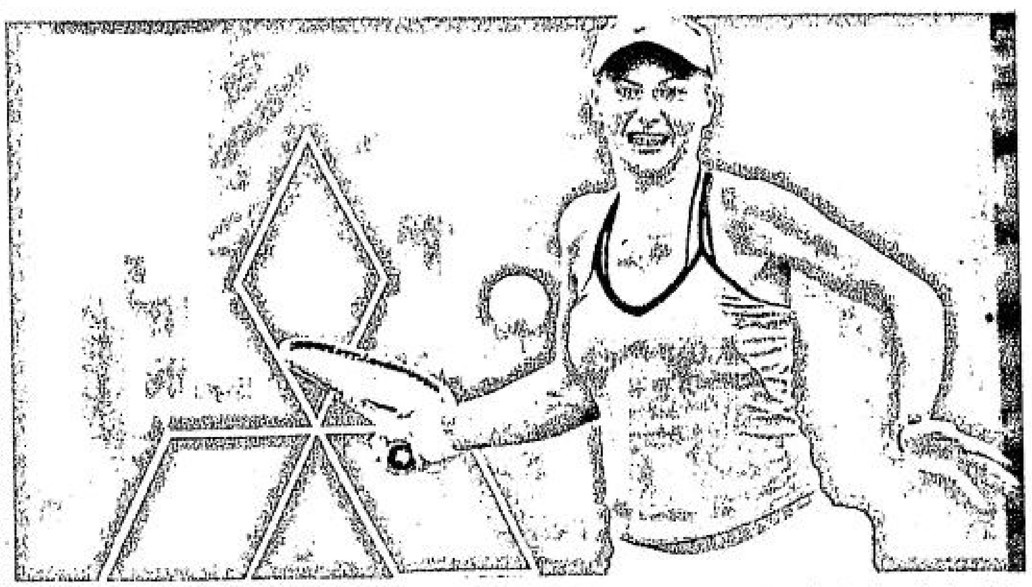

SACHA Joes of New Zealand, returns a shot at Elena Chernyakova of Russia during their 17th Mitsubishi Lancer ITF Junior Circuit Series match at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Jones won, 6-3, 7-5.
RYAN LIM

# Dy gains last 8 versus Russian

By Marc Anthony Reyes

DENISE DY CONTINUED HER IMPRESSIVE run yesterday to reach the quarterfinals of the rain-marred 17th Mitsubishi Lancer junior tennis championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

The only remaining Filipino bet, Dy, seeded fifth here, hacked out a 6-3, 6-1 triumph over Thailand ninth seed Varatchay Wongteanchai to set up a duel against Russian third seed Maya Gaverova, who bundled out Israel's Ilana Agranovich, 6-0, 6-0.

A finalist in last year's Asian Oceania junior championship in Australia and the Thailand age-group tourney, Dy was hardly threatened in the 45-minute match.

"If I play the way I did the past two matches I think I have a strong chance of making it all the way," said Dy, ranked No. 7 in the Asian junior circuit and winner of two bronze medals during the last Southeast Asian Games in the women's team and girls doubles.

At 16, Dy has shown maturity on the court, displaying killer instinct hardly seen among her local counterparts, according to tennis officials who expect her to represent the country in the 2007 SEA Games.

If she makes it past Gaverova, who is ranked No. 53 in the world, Dy, the world's No. 59, could meet top seed Sacha Jones of New Zealand, who beat her for the Malaysian age-group champion this year, in the semifinals.

Jones marched worry-free to the next round with a 6-3, 7-5 win over Elena Chernyakova of Russia. She will next meet seventh seed Noppawan Lertcheewakarn of Thailand, who defeated Hong Kong's Zijun Yang, 6-0, 6-4.

The boy's action was stopped because of the rains but not after top seed Sanam Singh of India had eliminated Rasmus Moller of Denmark, 6-1, 6-3.

Third seed Hsin Han Lee of Chinese Taipei ousted Dennis Lajola of the United States, 6-2, 6-4, while fourth seed Jeevan Neduchezhiyan of Indonesia bundled out Jiri Kosler of Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-2, before the downpour interrupted play.

Also advancing to the quarterfinals in the girls division were second seed Khystyna Antoniychuk of Ukraine, who brushed off Monika Sirilova, 6-1, 6-2. She will face 11th seed Veronica Li of the US, who won over Stephanie Vogt of Liechenstein, 6-3, 6-1.

American Chloe Jones also made it to the next round with a 6-1, 6-0 rout of 14th seed Yurina Koshino. Her next foe is No. 8 seed Stefanie Voegele of Switzerland, who drubbed Sandhya Nagaraj of India, 6-3, 6-4.

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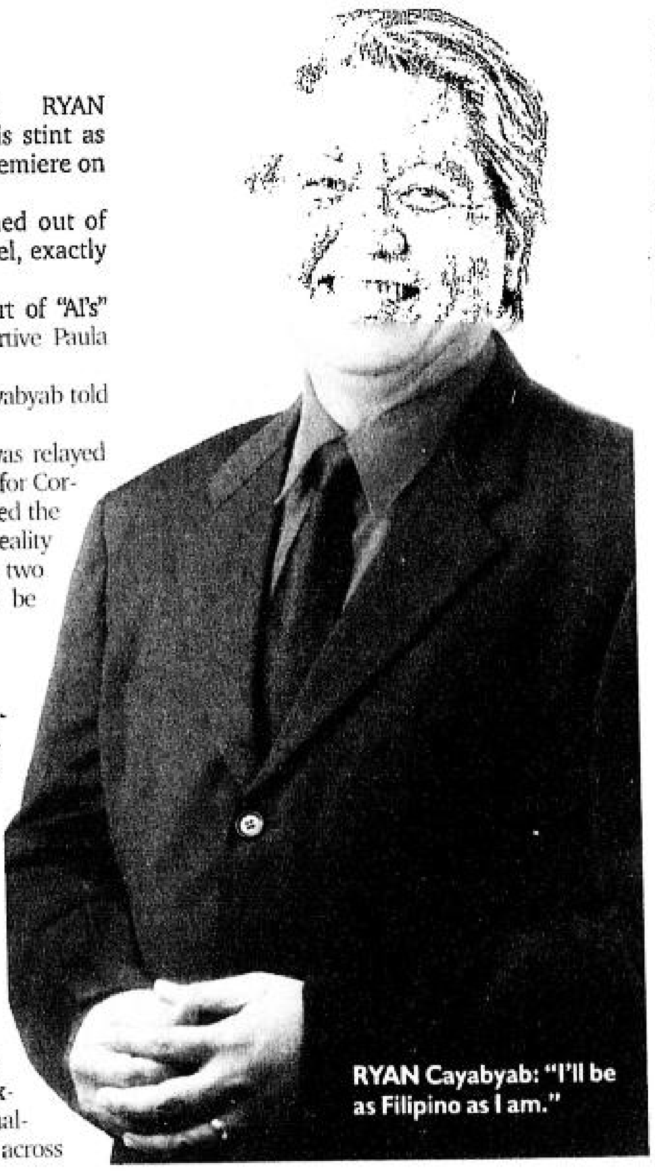
# Ryan C is first judge named for 'Philippine Idol'

**By Bayani San Diego Jr.**


RYAN Cayabyab: "I'll be as Filipino as I am."

AWARD-WINNING COMPOSER RYAN Cayabyab is looking forward to his stint as judge on "Philippine Idol," set to premiere on ABC 5 in July.

Cayabyab is the first to be named out of three who would make up the panel, exactly like the one on "American Idol."

Would he be the local counterpart of "AI's" technical Randy Jackson, the supportive Paula Abdul or the nasty Simon Cowell?

"I'll just be as Filipino as I am," Cayabyab told INQUIRER. "I will not imitate anyone."

News of Cayabyab's assignment was relayed by Terra Daffon, senior vice president for Corporate Affairs of ABC 5, which acquired the local license for the wildly popular reality TV series from FremantleMedia. The two other judges, plus two hosts, will be named shortly, according to Daffon.

## Instructions

Cayabyab said the RP "Idol" producers had given him clear instructions to "retain my personality," and that the only requirement is "to tell the truth to the contestants."

On second thought, since he is a music teacher, he surmised, "I [could] be the 'technical' guy; that's my training."

He might also be something between the effusive Abdul and the cantankerous Cowell.

"I'm sure I'd want to help the contestants improve," Cayabyab explained. "I will definitely push and challenge them. If I can get my message across in a fun way, that would be great."

He finds this very quality in Cowell commendable. "He is so real. His comments are so exact. His gift is that he puts his criticisms in colorful terms."

Overall, he said, everything's up in the air as of now. "I can't predict what I will be or what I will do in front of the cameras. The process may try my patience and turn me into an ogre!"

## Auditions

Auditions will be held in Manila, Cebu and Davao over the next few months.

One thing's for sure, Mr. C has specific requirements.

"I'm always on the lookout for someone different," he said. "I was so happy when I first heard Cynthia Patag audition for the Ambivalent Crowd in the 1970s. I got that same feeling when I heard Anna Fegi and Luke Mejares sing at the Smokey Mountain tryouts in Cebu and Chedi Vergara in Manila in the 1990s."

Cayabyab admitted that he was feeling the pressure to produce a worthy lineup of "Philippine Idol" aspirants especially since this season's "AI" contestants are the best ever.

In the present batch, Cayabyab is placing his bets on Chris Daughtry and Mandisa for their vocal chops, but he also thinks Katharine McPhee and Taylor Hicks score points for on-cam charisma.

"Taylor gives his all and makes the audience feel good in his every performance," Cayabyab said. "Local singers could learn from this 'AI' crop. There are other ways to perform than just making *birit* [belting] and screaming."

# Precious Lara would like
## to change RP beauty tilts system

**By Nini Valera**

QUIGAMAN: "Everybody's always late."

2005 MISS INTERNATIONAL Precious Lara Quigaman would like to see reforms in beauty tilts.

"There are things I'd like to change about the Bb. Pilipinas," Precious Lara told INQUIRER in an exclusive interview. She would start, she said, with the system.

"Most people are always late, and I hate that because I'm always early. People can't just be late and give 'Filipino time' as an excuse."

There's also the way the search is conducted, Precious Lara added.

"The training is done at the Araneta Center. All the girls go there. I'd like to see searches for beautiful girls in different parts of the country. Also, the training period is so short."

As a role model, the 23-year-old graduate of a media productions course from a university in Bristol, United Kingdom, said she wants to encourage the youth by "living a life that would inspire them."

As a beauty queen, she said, she would not let anyone look down on her.

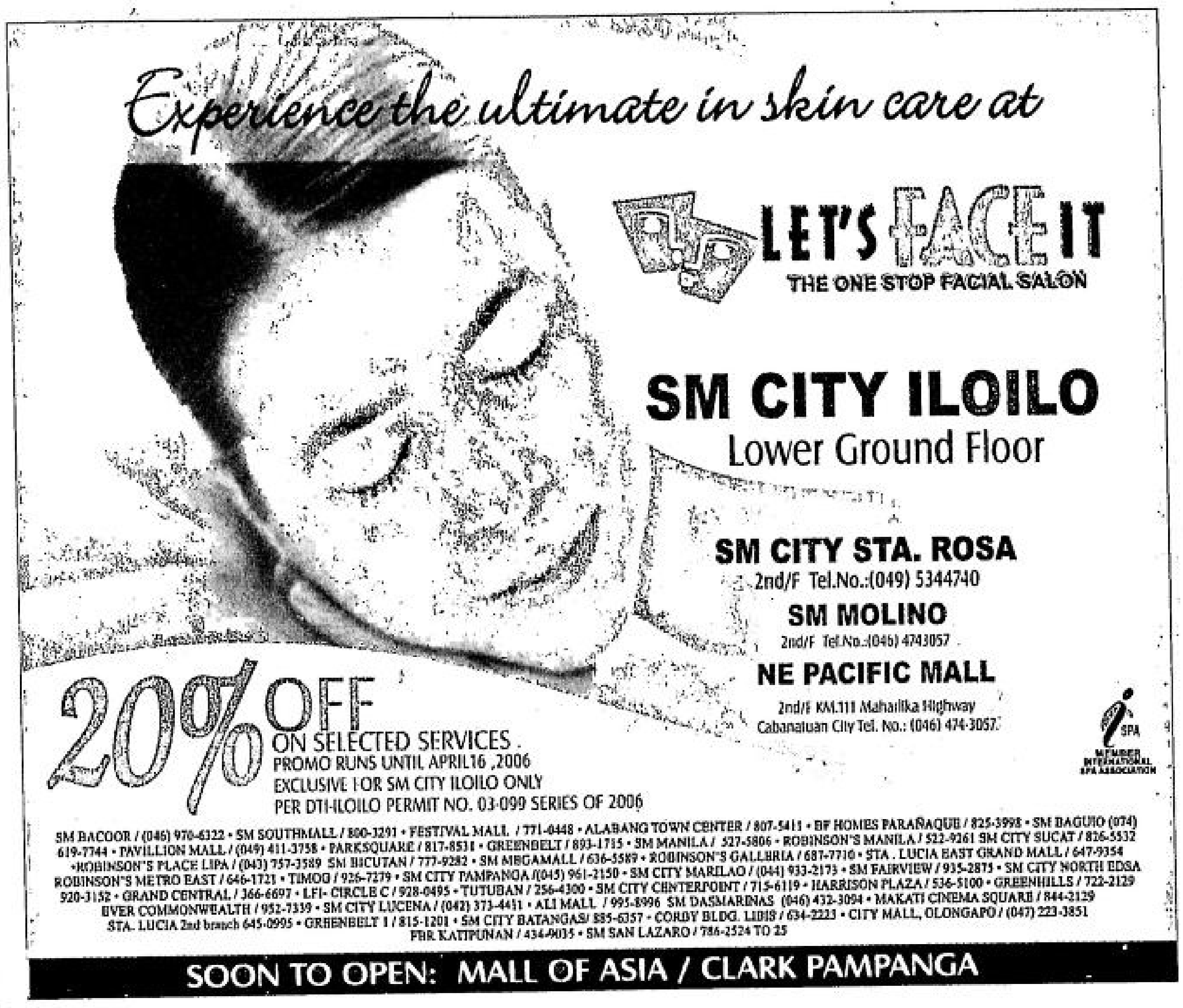
"Just because we parade in skimpy swimwear during the pageant... [That is] for the judges to see if a contestant has a good body and how comfortable she feels about her body."

Although there were times when she wondered if she wasn't being exploited, she said she knows for sure that she wouldn't knowingly allow that to happen.

She has refused to sign a contract that would have her endorse a brand of liquor, for instance. She did sign up to pitch Centrum, a multi-vitamin product that espouses the idea of being a complete person.

"That is what I want to be," Precious Lara said. "Complete—not [taken] in bits and pieces."

Being a beauty queen is a part of her life, she said, not the totality. "But I can help shape other lives because I am a beauty queen."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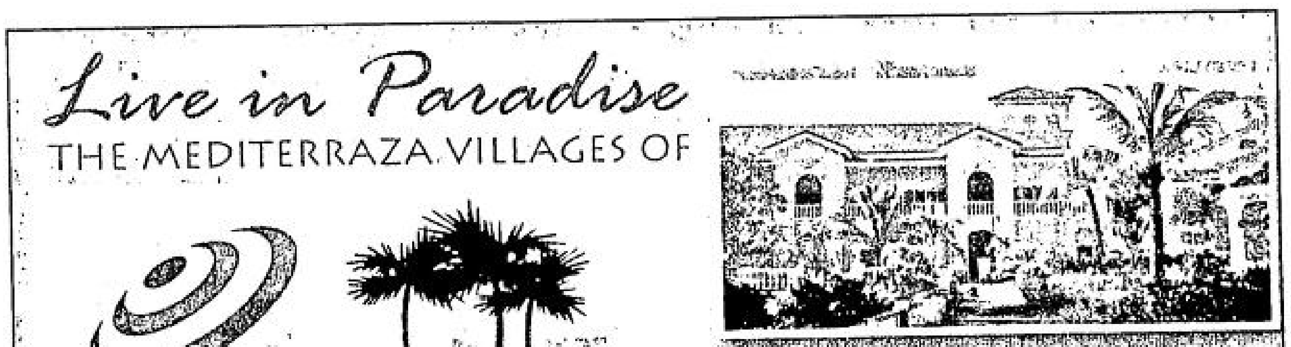
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# 'Starstruck' winners launch performing careers

**VIEWFINDER**

*Nestor U. Torre*

HOW ARE THE LATEST "Starstruck" Final Four doing as TV talents, now that the tilt has ended and they have been proclaimed top winners? We've made it a point to catch their different guestings on GMA-7 programs, and can share these notes:

From the very start of the talent competition, the female finalists looked more promising than their male counterparts. Ultimately, **Marky Cielo** won the top plum, but the best female bets, **Iwa Moto** and **Jackie Rice**, are both coming on strong as professional TV performers.

This early, **Jackie** is establishing herself as an ingenue leading lady. Contrastingly, **Iwa** is coming across more strongly, and could in fact end up as a *bida-kontrabida.*

We don't know if this is a part of her career plan. If it isn't she has to do something to soften her screen image, which tends to be *"mataray."*

Her hair coloring also lends her look a certain harshness which further conjures up those *kontrabida* limitations.

We wish that **Iwa** rectifies this impression, because she's much too new and young to be typecast in a negative mold. She will get many more roles if she opts more for versatility than a consistently "strong" projection.

For his part, **Marky** first disappointed some people, because he didn't look like a leading man. However, the ace up his sleeve turned out to be his exceptional dancing ability. In fact, he's an even better dancer than another "Starstruck" lead discovery, **Mark Herras.**

But even great dancing can't fuel a durable performing career, so **Marky** has to summon up other strengths to further boost his chances for sustained stardom.

This early, he's showing signs that he could also become a good actor. And, interestingly, his "ordinary" looks could even end up working in **Marky's** favor, because they make him more accessibly to the many viewers out there who aren't matinee-idol handsome.

Finally, the fact that **Marky** has ethnic roots is his key contribution to the local show biz scene, because it debunks the big colonial lie that you have to be *tisoy* to make it in the biz.

**Marky** is *Pinoy*, not *tisoy*, but he's making it in a big way. We hope that this will open doors for other non-*tisoy* talents in local show business.

As for the last member of the Final Four, **Gian**, he's doing least well as a TV performer, because he looks stolid and awkward. He has to light a fire under himself fast, if he wants his fledgling career to prosper.

**JACKIE Rice**

## Movies on Cinemax

Cinemax screens these viewing treats in April: "Beetlejuice," with **Michael Keaton** playing a ghost "hired" to scare off a hunted house's new owners; "Born Yesterday," a comedy classic starring **Judy Holliday** and **William Holden;**

"Death Becomes Her," topbilling **Meryl Streep** and **Goldie Hawn.**

"House of Wax," a 1953 horror classic with **Vincent Price** and **Charles Bronson;** "Introducing Dorothy Dandridge," with **Halle Berry** as the beautiful African-American icon;

"Mystic River," a **Clint Eastwood** film; "Phantom of the Rue Morgue," another horror classic, with **Karl Malden;** "Pleasantville," with **Tobey Maguire** and **Reese Witherspoon;**

"Reality Bites," a film directed by **Ben Stiller,** and starring himself, **Winona Ryder** and **Ethan Hawke.**

"Sleepless in Seattle," the quintessential romantic comedy topbilling **Tom Hanks** and **Meg Ryan.**

"The Appaloosa," a 1966 western starring **Marlon Brando.**

"The Bellboy," with **Jerry Lewis.**

Plus: "The Blues Brothers," "The Great Race," "The Last Hurrah," and "Wyatt Earp."

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| 3 | ICE AGE 2<br>12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 10:00<br>G |
| 4 | VENOM<br>2:15, 4:25, 6:35, 8:45, 11:00<br>R-13 |

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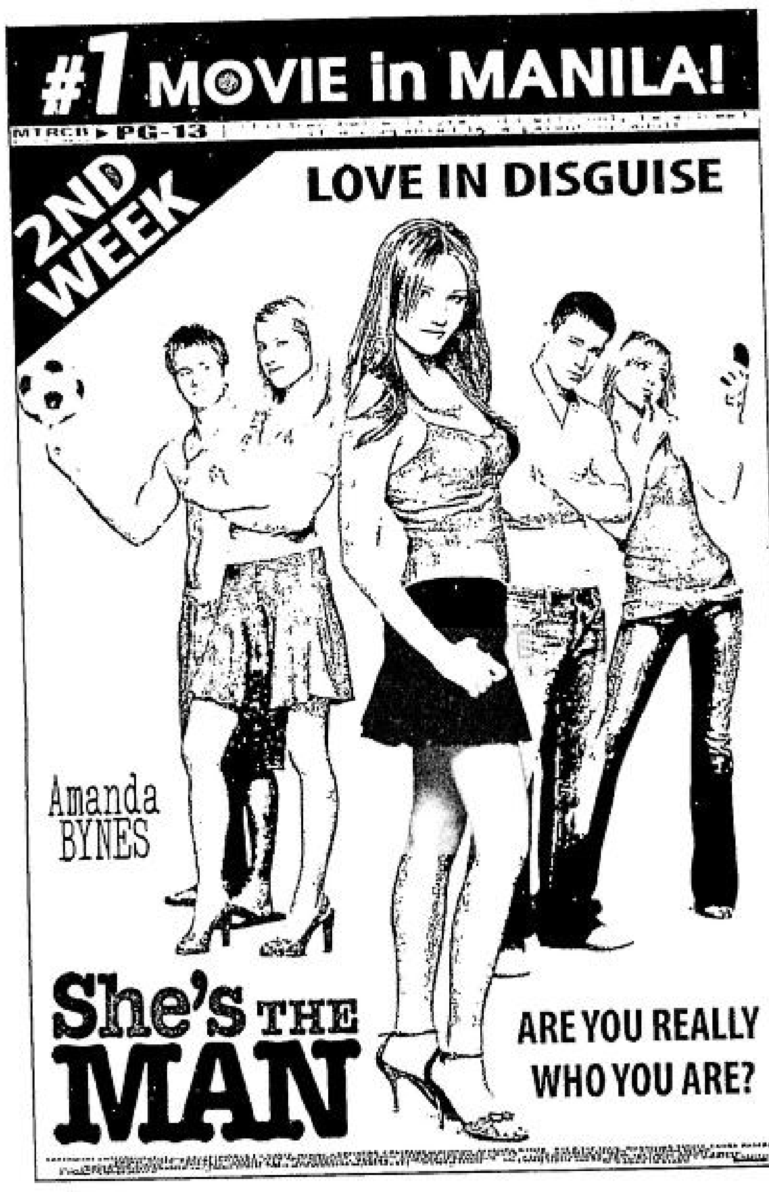

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| JUST FRIENDS<br>R13<br>12:50,3:10,5:30,<br>7:50,10:10 | VENOM<br>R13<br>1:40,3:40,5:40,7:40,9:40 | ICE AGE 2<br>G<br>11:30,1:30,3:30,<br>5:30,7:30,9:30 |

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③ BASIC INSTINCT 2
MTRCB R-18
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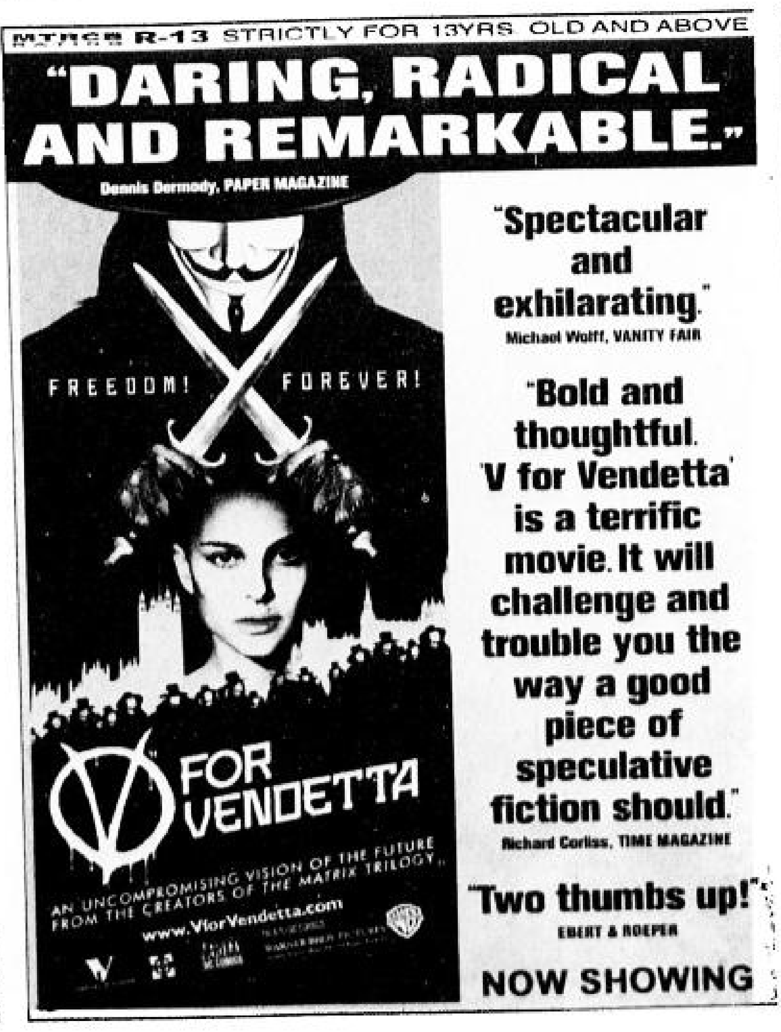

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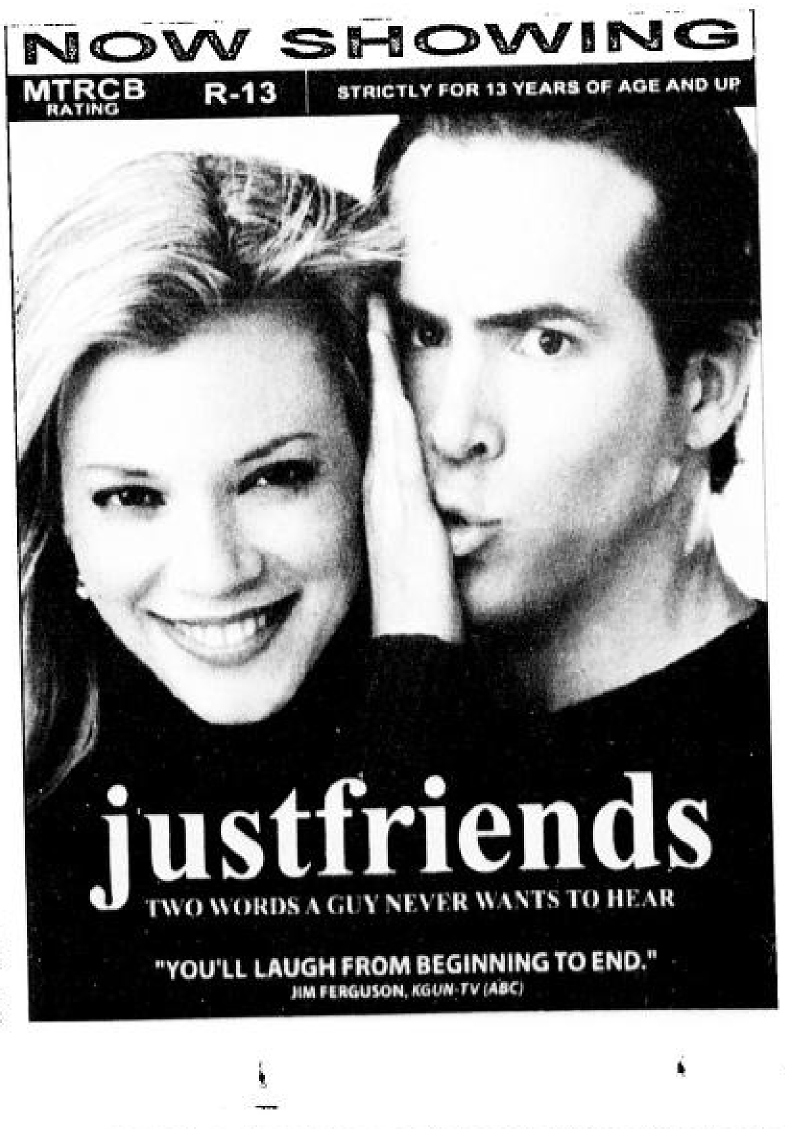

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# ROUNDUP

HANKS

## StarHanks

LOS ANGELES—Double Oscar-winner Tom Hanks has signed on to play a sacked advertising executive who ends up working in a coffee shop in the film version of "How Starbucks Saved My Life," reports said Tuesday.

Hanks will star in the movie that will be directed by "Good Will Hunting" filmmaker Gus Van Sant and based on a yet-to-be-written book that Universal Pictures bought up in advance.

The proposed book, to be published by Penguin's Gotham Books, is a memoir by Michael Gates Gill, a former J. Walter Thompson ad executive who was made redundant and found himself walking out of his local coffee bar with a job.

*AFP*

ROBERTS

## On Broadway

NEW YORK—OSCAR winning actress Julia Roberts makes her Broadway stage debut on Tuesday in a production of Richard Greenberg's "Three Days of Rain" after a career solely devoted to the silver screen.

Roberts, 38, was chosen for the play last year with producers hoping her cinema box office magic will draw big audiences to the Bernard B. Jacobs theatre in New York.

*AFP*

DARIO

## Two DJs

MANOLET "MANO" Dario, one of the country's top club scene DJs, "front-acts" for DJ Tiesto, adjudged the world's best, tonight at the Philippine International Conference Center. The party, sponsored by Gas Jeans and Motorola, starts at 10. Call 895-7471.

## Wahlberg baby

LOS ANGELES—Actor-singer Mark Wahlberg and his longtime girlfriend, Rhea Durham, have welcomed their second child, a baby boy, Durham's publicist said.

Durham, a model, gave birth in a Los Angeles hospital on March 22, Durham's manager Liz Dagostino said Tuesday.

Wahlberg and Durham also have a 2-year-old daughter.

*AP*

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1 ICE AGE 2 • THX
12.50 3:00 5:10 7:20 9:30

2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

3 LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN
12:30 2.50 5:10 7:30 9:50

4 JUST FRIENDS
11:15 1:25 3:35 5:45 7:55 10:00

5 ICE AGE 2
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

6 BASIC INSTINCT 2
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

7 NANNY MCPHEE
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

8 VENOM
1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:45

9 SHE'S THE MAN
12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00

10 ULTRAVIOLET
1:10 3.20 5:30 7:40 9:50

**ERMITA** 536-7809 to 12

1 ICE AGE 2 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10.00

2 NANNY MCPHEE 12:00 1:50 3:40
ULTRAVIOLET 5:50 7:50 9:50

3 LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN
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4 MOMENTS OF LOVE
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6 JUST FRIENDS
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7 BASIC INSTINCT 2
12.30 2.50 5:10 7:30 9:50

**METRO EAST** 682-8193 - 682-8199

1 SHE'S THE MAN
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

2 ICE AGE 2
12 30 2:45 5.00 7:15 9:15

3 BASIC INSTINCT 2
11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05

4 JUST FRIENDS
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5 VENOM
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6 NANNY MCPHEE 1:00 3:00
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7 LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN
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8 MOMENTS OF LOVE
11:25 1.50 4:15 6:40 9:05

**NOVALICHES** 936-3231/ 936-3228-30

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2 LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN
3 JUST FRIENDS
4 VENOM
5 ICE AGE 2
6 MOMENTS OF LOVE

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2 ICE AGE 2
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4 VENOM

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2 COED SCANDAL
3 ULTRAVIOLET
4 VENOM
5 MOMENTS OF LOVE
6 LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN

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2 SHE'S THE MAN
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 ICE AGE 2
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6 VENOM

**BACOLOD** (034) 441-0463 (034) 441-0469

1 ICE AGE 2
2 SYRIANA
3 V FOR VENDETTA
4 THE DARK
5 MOMENTS OF LOVE
6 GLORY ROAD

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2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
4 ICE AGE 2
5 DATE MOVIE
6 V FOR VENDETTA

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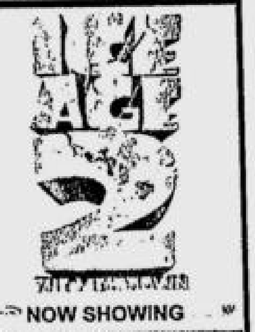

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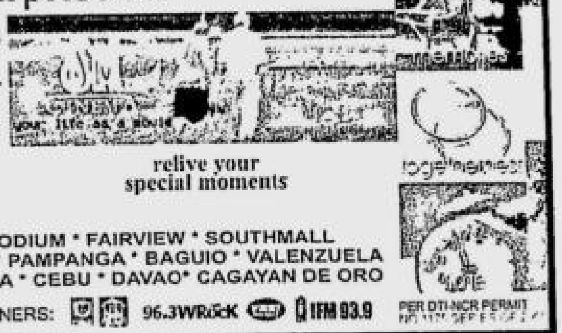

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**Promo starts on April 15, 2006

MEDIA PARTNERS: 96.3WR&K IFM93.9

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT

**METRO MANILA**

**PODIUM**
ICE AGE 2
11:30 FS / 11:55 MF / 02:00
04:05 / 06:55 LFS
06:10 LMF / 09:45 END
JUST FRIENDS
02:15 FS / 02:45 MF / 04:50
06:55 / 8:30LFS
09:00 LMF / 10:35 END

**SM MEGACINEMA**
16 BLOCKS
11:40FS / 12:00 MF /
02:10 LFS / 04:20 LMF
06:10 END
JUST FRIENDS
SHE'S THE MAN
RESERVED
NANNY McPHEE
ULTRAVIOLET
V FOR VENDETTA
FINAL DESTINATION 3
ICE AGE 2
ICE AGE 2
VENOM
MOMENTS OF LOVE

**SM CITY NORTH EDSA**
ICE AGE 2
V FOR VENDETTA
MOMENTS OF LOVE
RESERVED
JUST FRIENDS
SHE'S THE MAN
VENOM
ULTRAVIOLET

**SM CITY DASMARINAS**
ICE AGE 2
MOMENTS OF LOVE
VENOM
ULTRAVIOLET

**SM CITY BAGUIO**
FINAL DESTINATION 3
MOMENTS OF LOVE
VENOM
ICE AGE 2

**SM CITY MARILAO**
ICE AGE 2
MOMENTS OF LOVE
ULTRAVIOLET
MOMENTS OF LOVE

**SM CITY BATANGAS**
ICE AGE 2
RESERVED
MOMENTS OF LOVE
16 BLOCKS

**SM CITY FAIRVIEW**
THE DARK
FEARLESS
V FOR VENDETTA
ULTRAVIOLET
JUST FRIENDS
MOMENTS OF LOVE
VENOM
NANNY McPHEE
ICE AGE 2
FINAL DESTINATION 3
SHAGGY DOG
SHE'S THE MAN

**SM CITY STA. MESA**
ICE AGE 2
JUST FRIENDS
ULTRAVIOLET
SHE'S THE MAN
MOMENTS OF LOVE
FINAL DESTINATION 3
NANNY McPHEE
VENOM
V FOR VENDETTA
SHAGGY DOG

**SM CITY BICUTAN**
ICE AGE 2
MOMENTS OF LOVE
VENOM
ULTRAVIOLET

**SM CITY SAN LAZARO**
ICE AGE 2
SHE'S THE MAN
VENOM
NANNY McPHEE
JUST FRIENDS
MOMENTS OF LOVE

**LUZON**

**SM CITY BACOOR**
V FOR VENDETTA
SHE'S THE MAN
ICE AGE 2
NANNY McPHEE
ULTRAVIOLET
MOMENTS OF LOVE
VENOM
FINAL DESTINATION 3

**SM CITY STA. ROSA**
VENOM
THE DARK
MOMENTS OF LOVE
ICE AGE 2

**SM CITY MANILA**
ICE AGE 2
V FOR VENDETTA
SHE'S THE MAN
V FOR VENDETTA
NANNY McPHEE
ULTRAVIOLET
MOMENTS OF LOVE
THE DARK
FEARLESS
FINAL DESTINATION 3
16 BLOCKS
JUST FRIENDS

**SM CITY SOUTHMALL**
ICE AGE 2
NANNY McPHEE
MOMENTS OF LOVE
VENOM
SHE'S THE MAN
JUST FRIENDS
ULTRAVIOLET
V FOR VENDETTA
FINAL DESTINATION 3

**SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA**
ULTRAVIOLET
ICE AGE 2
MOMENTS OF LOVE
VENOM

**SM CITY SUCAT**
ICE AGE 2
VENOM
MOMENTS OF LOVE
ULTRAVIOLET

**SM CITY PAMPANGA**
VENOM
ICE AGE 2
SHE'S THE MAN
SHAGGY DOG
MOMENTS OF LOVE
MOMENTS OF LOVE

**SM CITY LUCENA**
16 BLOCKS
ICE AGE 2
THE DARK
MOMENTS OF LOVE

**SM CITY MOLINO**
ICE AGE 2
MOMENTS OF LOVE
NANNY McPHEE
ULTRAVIOLET

**SM CITY CEBU**
SYRIANA
12:00FS / 12:10 MF /
02:30 / 04:50
07:10 / 09:20 LFS
09:30 LMF / 11:40 END
VENOM
11:20FS / 11:30 MF / 01:10
02:50 / 04:30 / 06:10
07:50 / 09:15 LFS
09:30 LMF / 10:55 END
ICE AGE 2
11:20FS / 11:30 MF / 01:30
03:30 / 07:30
05:30 / 09:05 LFS
09:30 LMF / 11:05 END
CASANOVA
HOUSE OF FURY
BREAKING NEWS
MOMENTS OF LOVE
V FOR VENDETTA

**VISAYAS MINDANAO**

**SM CITY ILOILO**
GLORY ROAD
RESERVED
ICE AGE 2
FINAL DESTINATION 3
MOMENTS OF LOVE
SHAGGY DOG
RESERVED
V FOR VENDETTA

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BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
NEW WORLD
MOMENTS OF LOVE
VENOM
HOUSE OF FURY
ICE AGE 2

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ICE AGE 2
FINAL DESTINATION 3
MOMENTS OF LOVE
VENOM

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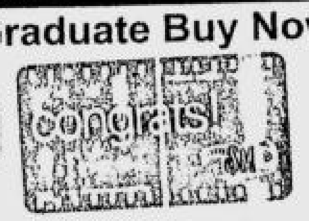

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# Pampanga-born . . .

From page A2-6

**are always singled out. To whom do you attribute these qualities?**

Both my parents. I got my outgoing traits from my mother. I learned humility from my father and inherited his sense of humor.

**How challenging was it to get where you are now, career-wise, especially as an Asian American helping break barriers in mainstream American media?**

It is quite challenging. But it made me want it more and try harder. We can all do be whatever we want, and I was out to prove that. There are still challenges [but] they make me stronger.

**In what way is being a former Miss Teen USA helping?**

It was the stepping stone I needed. I gained confidence and found myself. I felt proud to be an Asian American and represent the USA as Miss Teen USA 1998. I felt that I was given an extra responsibility to do something with my title.

**And how does being a former beauty queen pose an extra challenge?**

As with my ethnicity, I have to prove yourself and work harder. But that's in my personality.

**The live coverage of your "Miss Teen USA" triumph was pre-empted by a televised address by then President Clinton on the Lewinsky scandal. Did you wish he had chosen a different night?**

Some things are out of my hands. But it was fun because I got to watch myself crowned on TV, with my family and friends. And I was still nervous as I watched, as if I was still competing!

**You were a backstage correspondent for the 50th Miss USA pageant. Didn't you want to join the Miss USA, too?**

Miss Teen USA and Miss USA get the same opportunities. Having won in 1998, I did not want to try out again and take that chance away from someone else. Instead, I started working and forwarding my career.

**What is the best part of living in New York and being a correspondent for "Entertainment Tonight"?**

All the wonderful events, once-in-a-lifetime opportunities and the people I meet. For example, I had a private piano session with Clive Davis and Barry Manilow. Recently, I walked through an exhibit with Drew Barrymore where she showed me her personal private photos from Africa. I just love my job!

**What has been your most memorable experience so far as cohost of MTV's "Total Request Live" and previous MTV specials?**

My favorite so far is covering the "Live 8" concert. Wow, it was touching—1.3 million people in Philadelphia. MTV is always fun and fresh.

**Name some celebrities that you are still hoping to meet and why.**

Demi Moore, for her career longevity and timeless beauty. Angelina Jolie—I'd love to talk to her in person about her work as a UN Goodwill Ambassador. I have met everyone else I've ever wanted to meet. They have all come to MTV's "Total Request Live" or on "Entertainment Tonight."

**If you could invite several celebrities to a dream dinner, who would you ask?**

Jim Carrey, Alicia Keys, Stevie Wonder, Kate Hudson and Robert Redford, just to name a few.

**What is one thing about you that most people don't know and they would probably be surprised if they knew?**

That I get very nervous before I talk to anyone at work. I become quiet. I try to play the interview out in my head first. Sometimes nervousness makes me sick in the stomach.

**A college scholarship came with your Miss Teen USA title. Do you still plan to go to college?**

Sure, I'd love to go one day. My father got his college degree at

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NANNY MCPHEE GP
3 (DOLBY) BASIC INSTINCT 2 R18
4 (DOLBY) VENOM R13
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) ICE AGE 2 GP

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(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) JUST FRIENDS
2 (SDDS) NANNY MCPHEE
3 (DTS) ICE AGE 2
4 GOLD (DTS) ICE AGE 2
5 GOLD (DOLBY) LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN
6 GOLD (SDDS) VENOM
7 GOLD (DOLBY) BASIC INSTINCT 2
8 MOMENTS OF LOVE
9 V FOR VENDETTA
10 ULTRAVIOLET

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2 (DOLBY) ICE AGE 2
3 (DOLBY) ICE AGE 2
4 (DOLBY) VENOM

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Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
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2 BASIC INSTINCT 2
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 VENOM

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Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) BASIC INSTINCT 2
2 (DOLBY) MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 (DOLBY) ICE AGE 2
4 (DOLBY) VENOM

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) ICE AGE 2
2 VENOM
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 BASIC INSTINCT 2
5 LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN

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Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 HOUSE OF FURY
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3 (DOLBY) ICE AGE 2
4 VENOM
Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Binan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 MOMENTS OF LOVE
2 (DOLBY) ICE AGE 2
3 (DTS) VENOM
4 HOUSE OF FURY
Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 THE DARK
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 (DOLBY) HOSTEL
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3 (DOLBY) HOSTEL
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Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 ICE AGE 2
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 (DOLBY) ULTRAVIOLET
Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Gapan)
1 ICE AGE 2
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE

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3 BASIC INSTINCT 1
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2 ICE AGE 2
3 BASIC INSTINCT 2

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4 ICE AGE 2

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2 VENOM
3 (DTS EX) MOMENTS
4 FINAL DESTINATION

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2 XXX.COM
3 (DTS) MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 HOUSE OF FURY
5 VENOM

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NE Pacific Mall Cabanatuan, Telephone No. (044) 600 3025
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2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 HOSTEL

Cine Nepo
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1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 (DOLBY) RESERVED
4 (DTS) RESERVED

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 MOMENTS OF LOVE
2 HOSTEL
3 (DOLBY) FINAL DESTINATION
4 HOUSE OF FURY

Fiesta World Mall
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2 ICE AGE 2
3 16 BLOCKS
4 MOMENTS OF LOVE

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Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
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2 ICE AGE 2
3 RESERVED
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2 AEON FLUX

Berma Cinema
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2 DARK DANCER

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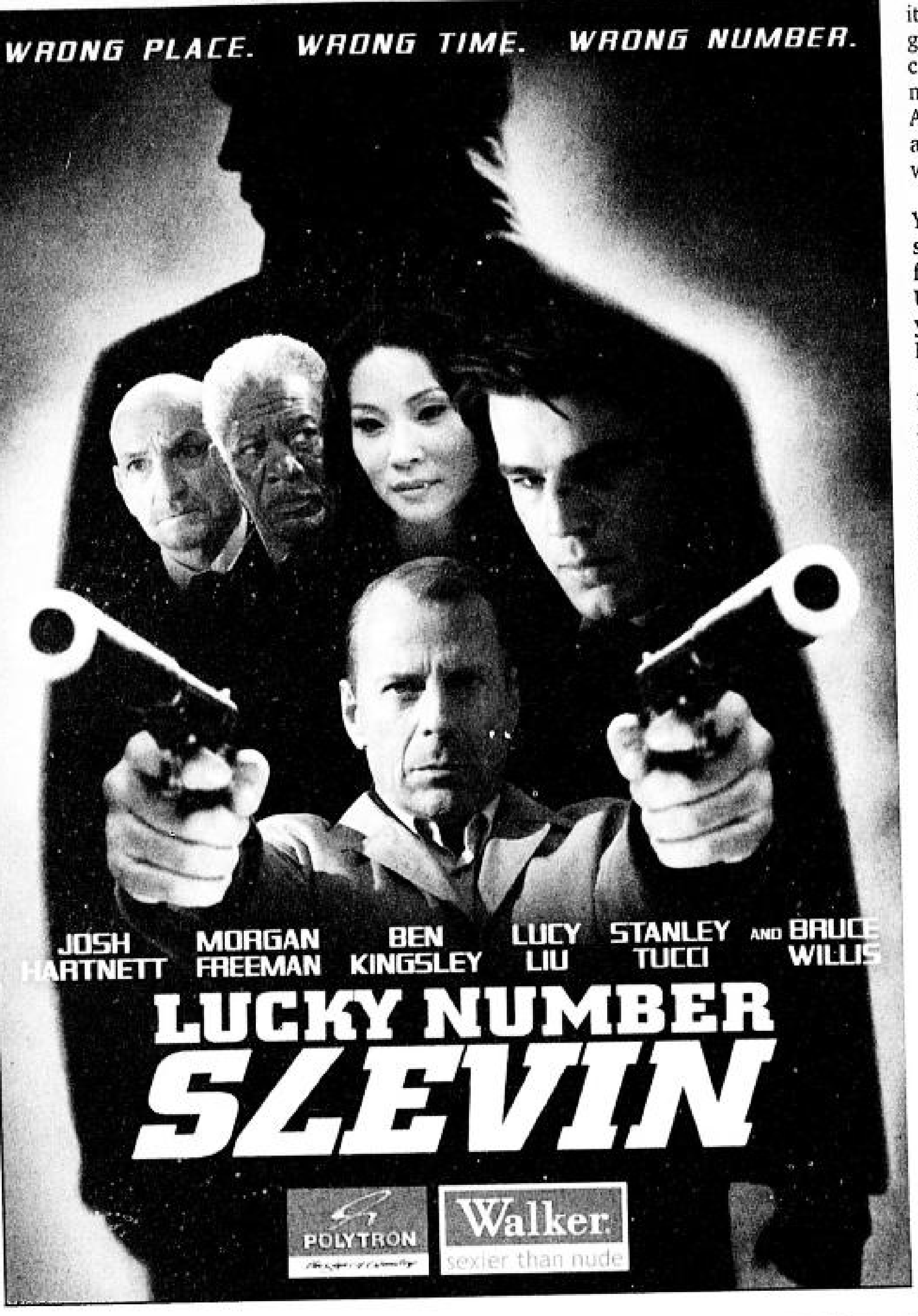
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LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN 12:30 / 2:50 / 5:10 / 7:30 / 9:50
BASIC INSTINCT 2 1:50 / 4:30 / 7:10 / 9:50
GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
JUST FRIENDS 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00
VENOM 1:40 / 3:40 / 5:40 / 7:40 / 9:40
ICE AGE 2 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00
HOSTEL 7:35 / 9:40
ICE AGE 2 1:55 / 4:05 / 6:15 / 8:25
NANNY McPHEE 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10
SHE'S THE MAN 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00
V FOR VENDETTA 7:00 / 9:40
ULTRAVIOLET 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00
ONLY P120 ADMISSION GLOBE PLATINUM P249/P299
Ali MALL CINEMAS
MOMENTS OF LOVE 12:00 R3 / 1:40 / 4:00 / 6:20 / 8:40
LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN 12:00 R3 / 1:40 / 4:00 / 6:20 / 8:40
BASIC INSTINCT 2 12:10 / 2:50 / 5:30 / 8:10
ICE AGE 2 12:15 R4 / 1:05 / 3:15 / 5:25 / 7:35
VENOM 12:40 / 2:40 / 4:40 / 6:40 / 8:40
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> 'I recently walked through a photo exhibit with Drew Barrymore'

45, so I can, too!

**How did you prepare for your Oscar pre-show hosting stint?**

We had two days of rehearsal. We did practice interviews with stand-ins. So, on the day of the Oscars itself, I knew exactly who I would be talking to, and what questions I would be asking. But there were few last-minute, on-the-spot interviews. I felt very comfortable and prepared.

**What were you most nervous about?**

I didn't get to see some of the Oscar-nominated movies and performances. I was nervous that I'd run into some things that I was not familiar with. No one can see every movie.

But overall, I was relaxed. I've met most of the celebrities from "Entertainment Tonight" or on MTV, so I wasn't nervous. It was very structured and organized. They definitely had it together. I was just icing on the cake with the other co-hosts.

**What was the most exciting part for you?**

Seeing George Clooney again. He's very charming and his smile is contagious. Also, the opportunity to be in a show that was broadcast globally. In such a big stage or setting, I'm always proud to represent my heritage.

**The most fun?**

It's always fun to see what everyone wears. I saw Dolly Parton for the first time. She's so little!

**You have acted on "The Bold and the Beautiful" and have guested in several sitcoms. Is being an actress still one of your goals?**

Yes, but acting is a craft that you have to master. You don't just jump into it.

**What are your other dreams and goals, professionally and personally?**

I want to do all that I can. Be an entrepreneur. Have a family one day. I can't wait to have Vanessa mini-mes walking around.

*(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.)*

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| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G1 GLORIETTA 1 | ULTRAVIOLET | MOMENTS OF LOVE | ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN | BASIC INSTINCT 2 | | | |
| G4 GLORIETTA 4 | VENOM | JUST FRIENDS | THX BASIC INSTINCT 2 GUARANTEED SEATS | RENT | NANNY MCPHEE | ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN | LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN |
| GB1 GREENBELT 1 | JUST FRIENDS | BASIC INSTINCT 2 | | | | | |
| GB3 GREENBELT 3 | THX ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN GUARANTEED SEATS | THX JUST FRIENDS GUARANTEED SEATS | RENT GUARANTEED SEATS | ULTRAVIOLET GUARANTEED SEATS | BASIC INSTINCT 2 GUARANTEED SEATS | | |
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# Pampanga-born Vanessa Minnillo going places

**ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD**

*Ruben V. Nepales*

LOS ANGELES—"I WOULD LOVE TO," SAID the Pampanga-born Americ an TV show host and former Miss Teen USA Vanessa Minnillo when I asked if she would like to grace or judge a beauty contest in pageant-crazy Philippines.

Born at Clark Air Force Base in 1980, Vanessa is the daughter of a Filipina, Helen Berecero, and Vince Minnillo. Vanessa's parents met when he was a USAF aircrew member assigned at Clark. Crowned Miss Teen USA in 1998, this beautiful Filipino-American has been enjoying a winning career streak in entertainment.

The 5'8" tall stunner is the New York correspondent of "Entertainment Tonight," the world's top syndicated entertainment newsmagazine. She is a VJ on MTV's "Total Request Live" and has hosted several MTV specials.

Recently, Vanessa landed the plum assignment as one of the co-hosts of the Academy Awards' official red carpet arrivals show, "Oscar Countdown 2006." Vanessa's lovely Amerasian features and sweet, affable personality were showcased in the Oscar pre-show which was telecast in over 100 countries and watched by millions of viewers.

Vanessa has hurdled many challenges to get where she is now. According to Self magazine, the exotic-looking Vanessa, upon winning the Miss Teen USA title, was hurt when someone told a friend of hers, "How can she (Vanessa) represent the United States, looking the way she does?"

After her parents separated when she was 6, Vanessa constantly moved around, to such places as Florida and Nevada, with her mother and adopted older brother, Vincent. At one point, Vanessa lived in Turkey and Germany when her mother married another serviceman. Of those peripatetic times, Vanessa looked at the positive side: "I love travel and new experiences. Those were amazing learning experiences for me."

In high school, Vanessa finally enjoyed a settled life when she and her brother lived with their father (now retired) and stepmother (Donna Minnillo) in Charleston, South Carolina.

Despite stories of their estrangement, Vanessa never fails to point out in interviews the winning qualities that she inherited from her mother, a native of Leyte.

She is also grateful about her beauty contest background which, she believes, opened many doors for her. "With the proper mind-set, a woman can find that beauty contests are very beneficial," she told me via e-mail. She judged the Miss Teen USA 2003 tilt and covered the backstage action in the 50th Miss USA pageant in 2001. These pageants, plus Miss Universe, are owned by Donald Trump in partnership with NBC.

Vanessa has been linked to New York Yankees baseball player Derek Jeter and actor Orlando Bloom. She appears as a former love interest of Nick Lachey in his new music video, "What's Left of Me." In Vogue's Oscar Awards-themed February issue, Vanessa was photographed as Jennifer Beals' memorable character in legwarmers and cut-off sweatshirt.

PHOTO BY JANET SUSAN R. NEPALES

Miss Teen USA '98 is 'Entertainment Tonight's' New York correspondent—oh, and did you see her hosting the Oscar pre-show?

**There is an online photo of you wearing your Miss Teen USA sash with some members of the Filipino community of Charleston, South Carolina. How close are you to this community?**

My mother was my biggest link with the Filipino community. Once I lived with my father and stepmom, it was hard to keep up with the community, but I always [never forget] my roots and how I grew up. My favorite dish is chicken *adobo*. I made my stepmom learn how to cook it for me. She still does to this day.

**You were born at Clark Air Force Base in Pampanga. Have you been back since to the Philippines?**

I have not gone back but I look forward to the day when I can. I know it will be emotional for me.

**Do you speak the Pampango dialect or understand Tagalog?**

I know when a mother is telling her kid to stop or be quiet, or behave. I heard that a lot growing up. Ha-ha!

**What qualities or traits do you have that you think came from the Filipino in you?**

My spark! And my passion to follow my dream. I have to try a little harder than the next person, but that's what gives me the drive and desire. Also, my sensuality. I have my mother's eyes and looks that can say a lot, I think. My dad always says, "Your mother would give that look!"

**Reading about you, I notice that your sense of humor and affable personality**

PAMPANGA/ A2-4

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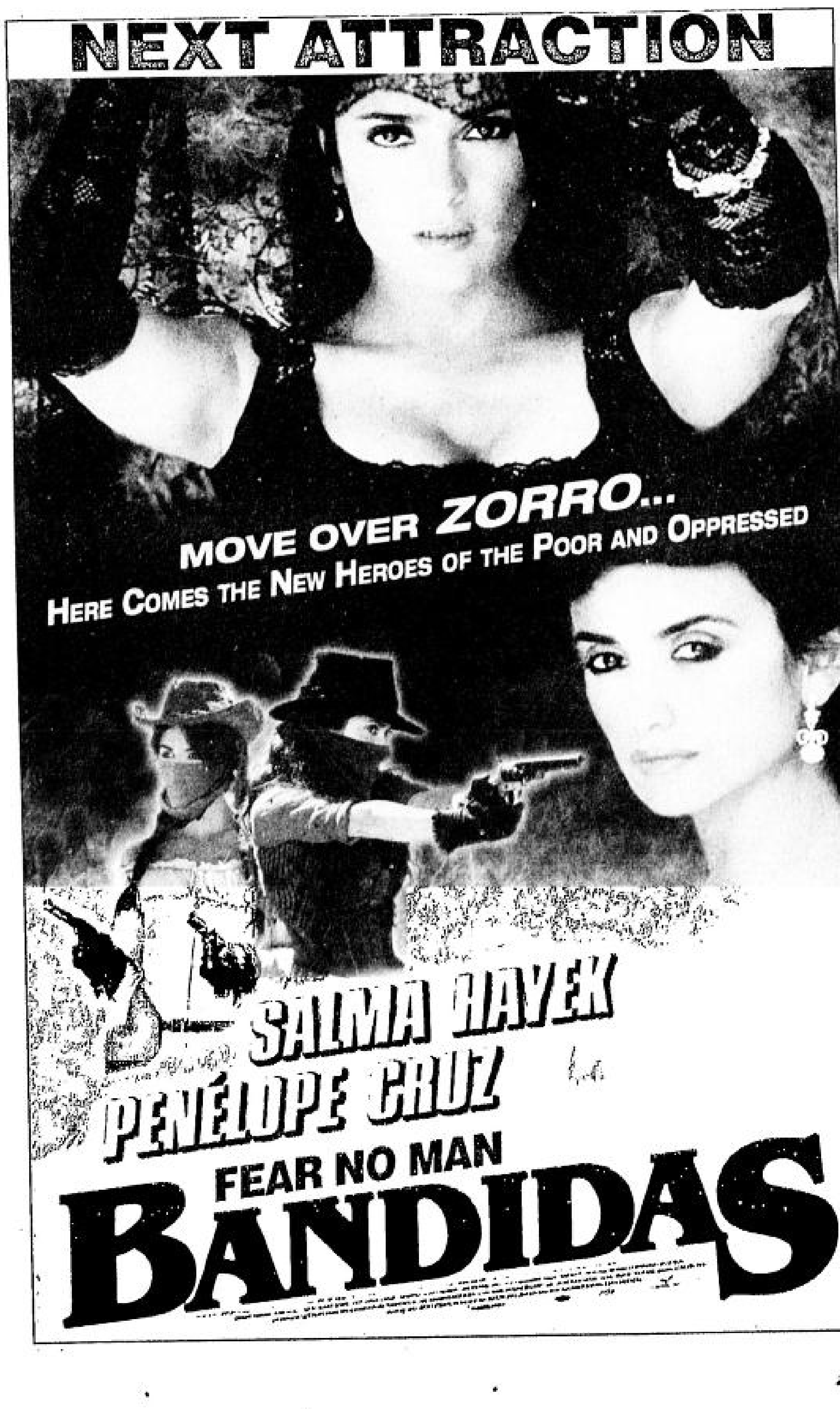
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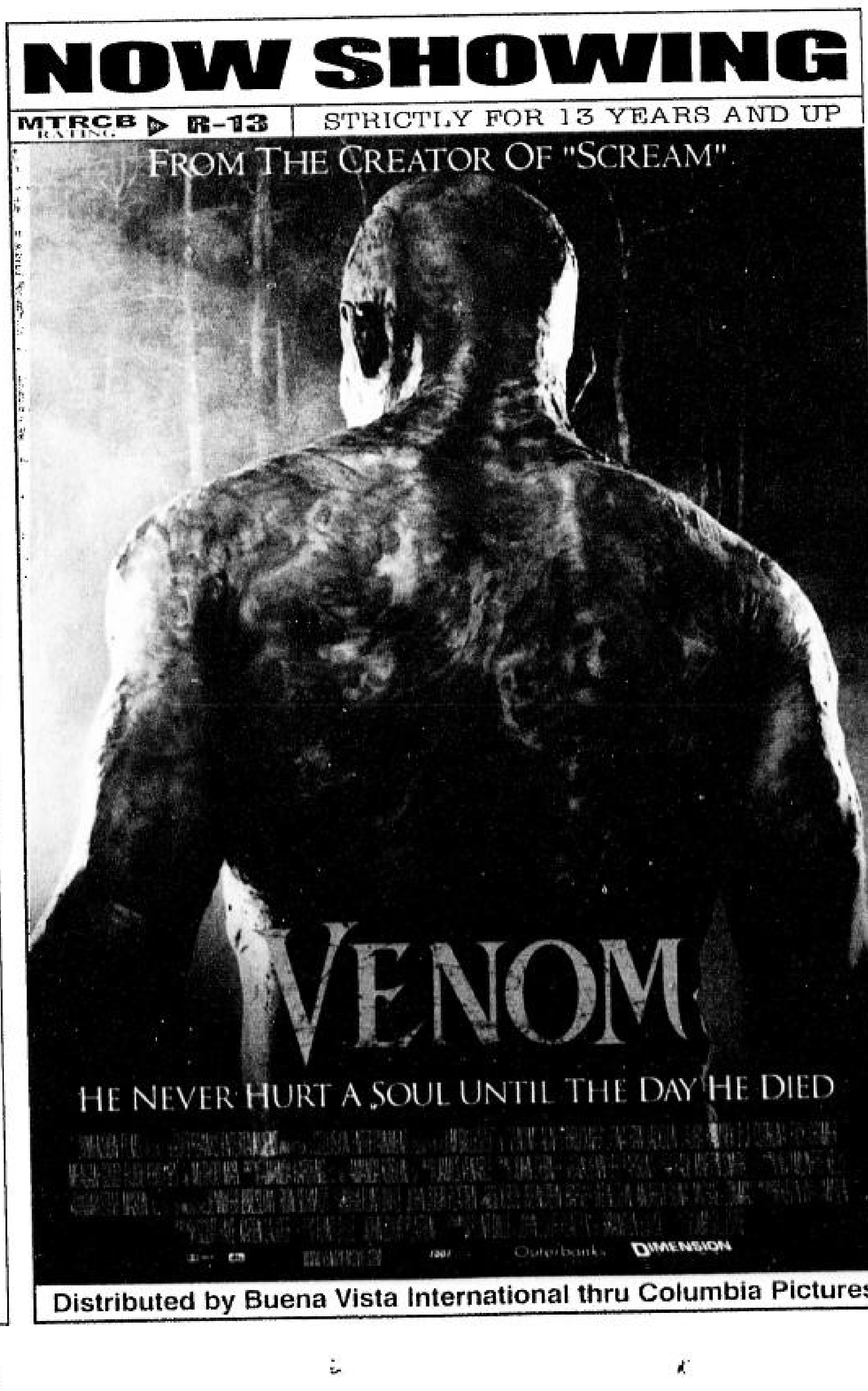
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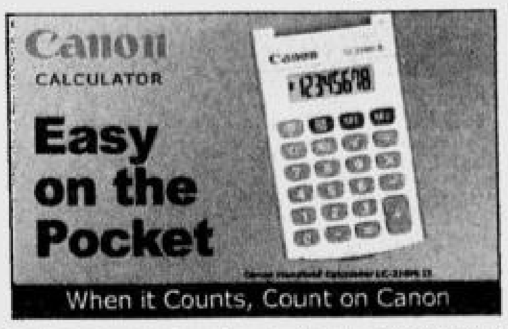
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# RP donors say gov't averted economic crisis

## But more reforms, better tax collection needed

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES HAS AVERTED AN ECONOMIC CRISIS AND moved toward a "virtuous" path following recent strides in fiscal consolidation, but more reforms are needed to lock in gains and benefit the Filipino masses.

This was the key message sent yesterday by the country's multilateral and bilateral donors to President Macapagal-Arroyo and her economic team led by Finance Secretary Margarito Teves at the opening of the two-day Philippine Development Forum (formerly the Consultative Group Meeting) in Tagaytay.

Joachim von Amsberg, World Bank country director and co-chair of the 27th annual meeting with donors, said the international donor community recognized that the Philippines had seized the narrow window of opportunity to undertake front-loaded fiscal adjustment, particularly with the implementation of the two-pronged expanded value-added tax (VAT) reform.

"Last year demonstrated that a core set of sound macroeconomic policies could be pursued with success even in a contentious political context. In fact, some core policies have been protected from partisan politics," Von Amsberg said.

"If 2005 was the year of the VAT and a virtuous circle of tax policy and market confidence, 2006 could become the year of tax collection, or the year of more and more equi-

RP DONORS/ B2

COLORFUL genetically modified tilapia, developed by the Central Luzon State University, is providing good business for Tinglayan town. Many Kalinga markets won't take the fish, however, because buyers find the colors too strange. EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

## ABS-CBN profit slumps on weak ad revenues

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE FINANCIAL TROUBLES OF ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.—the country's biggest broadcast network—showed no signs of easing as lower revenues and higher costs conspired to push profits lower last year.

In a briefing for investors and analysts yesterday, the company reported a 2005 net income of only P288 million, representing a 62-percent drop from the previous year's P751 million.

ABS-CBN's fortunes contrasted sharply with those of its rival GMA Network Inc., which recently reported a 2005 net income of P2 billion on the back of P9.4 billion in revenues.

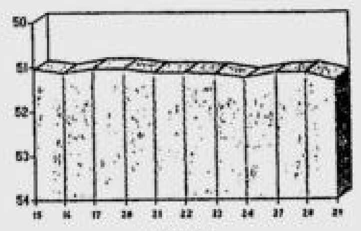
The company was quick to acknowledge that its earnings were dented by the poor performance of its television programs.

"Airtime revenues remained weak, reflecting the lower ratings of its programs [in

ABS-CBN/ B5

## INDICATORS

### CURRENCIES



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As of 5 p.m., March 30, 2006

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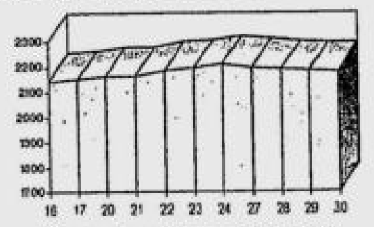
### STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B2)

## Shares close flat

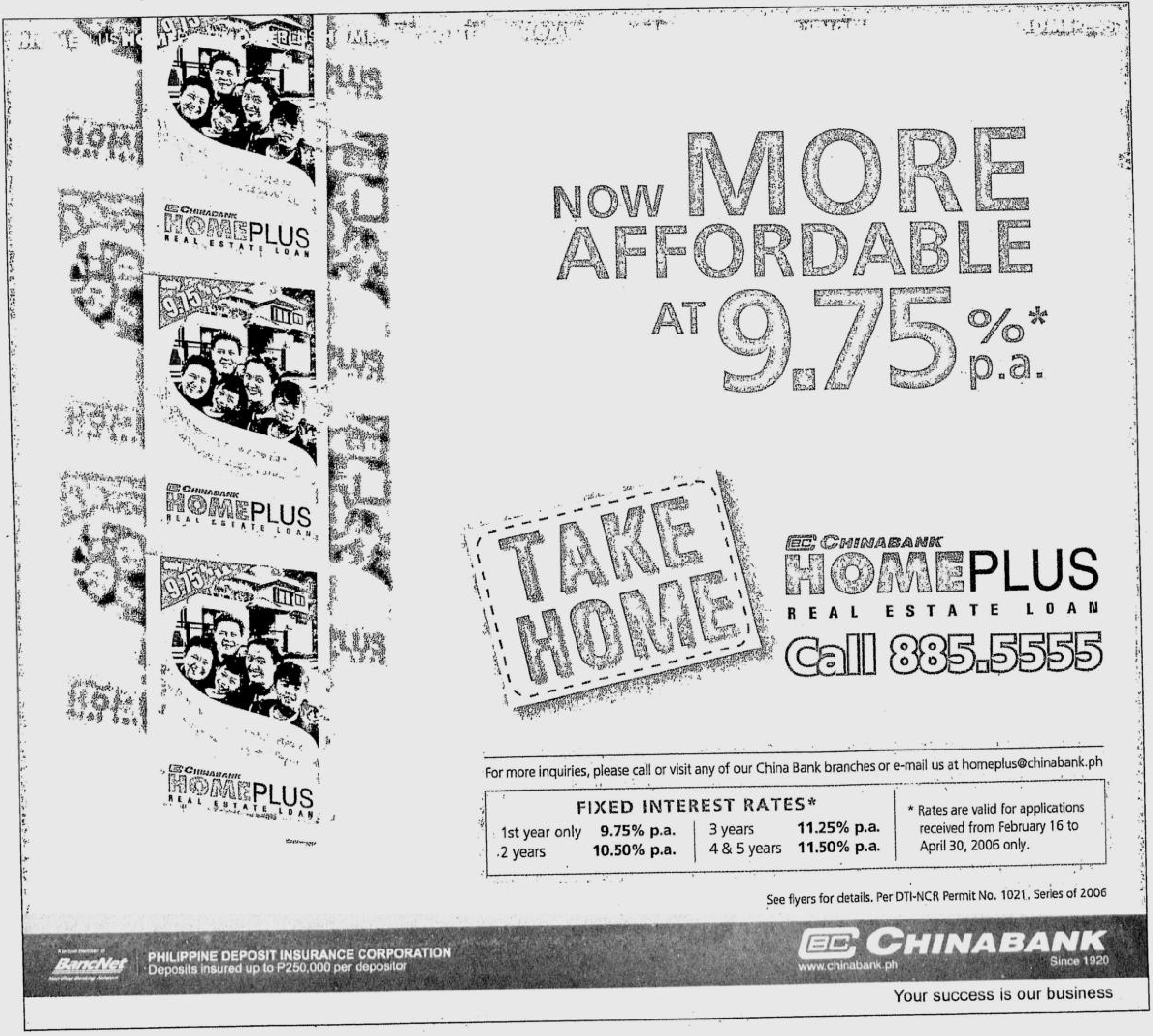
SHARE PRICES CLOSED LITTLE CHANGED yesterday as gains in telecom giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone (PLDT) offset profit-taking elsewhere, dealers said.

They said the government's decision to cut its economic growth targets this year coupled with prospects for a rise in interest rates

SHARES/ B2

## WHAT'S INSIDE

MPC scare /B5
Online gaming firm expands /B5
Ecozones' earnings down 10% in 2005 /B10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| 105 sqm. | P 274,978.65 | 152 sqm. | P 398,064.33 |
| ~~118 sqm.~~ | P 309,023.63 | 164 sqm. | P 429,490.46 |
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# Basic sells unit to Forum Energy

**By Abigail L. Ho**

SHAREHOLDERS OF LISTED FIRM BASIC Consolidated Inc. have approved the acquisition of subsidiary Basic Petroleum and Minerals Inc. (BPMI) by British-Canadian group Forum Energy Plc.

The approval, given during Basic's annual general meeting Wednesday, paved the way for the completion of Forum's acquisition of BPMI for $17 million in cash and Forum shares.

"The merger of Basic's petroleum interests with those of (Forum's) is now subject to approval from the government of the Philippines," Forum chief executive David Robinson said in a statement. "The company will make a further announcement regarding the decision in due course."

Robinson earlier said that Forum's acquisition of BPMI was expected to give it immediate oil production, with a huge growth potential through the use of advanced technology.

The acquisition, he said, would provide Forum with an initial net production of 40 barrels of oil a day, as well as interests in nine oil fields that offered significant additional production and reserve potential.

"This acquisition creates an exceptional opportunity for us as we seek to grow our company and create maximum value for our shareholders," he said.

BPMI's assets include interests in nine offshore fields, including 8.47 percent in Nido, 12.41 percent in Matinloc and Pandan, 19.46 percent in North Matinloc, 28.6 percent in Libro, 10 percent in Tara, 7.03 percent in Bonita, 9.1 percent in West Linapacan, 8.17 percent in Galoc and 27.7 percent in Service Contract 41, which covers 4,820 square kilometers and is located within the Sulu Sea.

# RP . . .

From page B1

table tax collection for more and more equitable public services," he said.

The official noted that better tax collection would allow deeper fiscal adjustment and additional public services for growth and poverty reduction.

"This could lead to another virtuous circle of tax collection and better government services," Von Amsberg said.

"The rationalization and transparency of public expenditures as well as credible measures against corruption will increase the trust of citizens in the State. Public support for adequate taxation will increase," he added.

Through the passage and enactment of the VAT, he said the Philippines managed to avoid a potential economic crisis and restored market confidence.

"The measures have set in motion a virtuous circle. Government borrowing costs are reduced, and the savings in interest payments have in fact exceeded the additional tax revenues. The gains from interest savings outweigh the pain from additional tax payment," Von Amsberg explained.

For the first time in the history of the Philippine annual donors' meetings, which in previous years usually took the form of a pledging session, this year's meetings were marked by the participation of the country's two highest officials, the President and the Vice President.

"For the time being, market confidence has been restored, and the country has moved away from the very real risk of a serious crisis to a more comfortable situation in which deficit and debt ratios are declining and reduced borrowing costs create the prospect of reversing, in the medium term, the trend of declining spending for public service delivery," Von Amsberg said.

## PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of March 30, 2006)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FINANCIAL | | | | | |
| BANKS | | | | | |
| Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc. | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 5,000 |
| Banco de Oro Univ. Bank | 34.5 | 35 | 34 | 35 | 53,400 |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 62 | 62 | 62 | 62 | 2,682,100 |
| China Banking Corp. | 680 | 680 | 680 | 680 | 1,140 |
| Citystate Savings Bank | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 300 |
| Export and Ind. Bank Inc. | 0.43 | 0.47 | 0.43 | 0.47 | 33,580,000 |
| Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 76.5 | 77 | 76 | 76 | 57,600 |
| International Exch. Bank | 30 | 30.5 | 30 | 30 | 89,000 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 39 | 39 | 38.5 | 38.5 | 511,100 |
| Phil. Bank of Comm. A | 51 | 51 | 51 | 51 | 500 |
| Philippine National Bank | 34 | 34 | 34 | 34 | 12,000 |
| Phil. Savings Bank | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 500 |
| Rizal Comm. Banking Corp. | 13.5 | 13.5 | 13.25 | 13.25 | 34,700 |
| Security Bank Corp. | 41.5 | 44.5 | 41.5 | 44 | 451,900 |
| Union Bank of the Phil. | 36.5 | 37.5 | 36.5 | 37.5 | 32,500 |
| OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS | | | | | |
| Bankard Inc. | 0.89 | 0.9 | 0.89 | 0.89 | 230,000 |
| First Metro Invest. Corp. | 26 | 27 | 26 | 27 | 35,000 |
| Manulife Financial Corp. | 3175 | 3175 | 3175 | 3175 | 10 |
| PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 70,000 |
| Phil. Stock Exchange Inc. | 162 | 165 | 162 | 165 | 6,100 |
| Sun Life Financial Inc. | 2170 | 2185 | 2170 | 2185 | 1,130 |
| Ivantage Corp. | 0.94 | 0.95 | 0.93 | 0.94 | 8,280,000 |
| INDUSTRIAL | | | | | |
| ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER | | | | | |
| First Gen Corp. | 44.5 | 45 | 44 | 45 | 683,000 |
| First Phil Hldgs Corp. | 44.5 | 45.5 | 44.5 | 45.5 | 885,300 |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 12.75 | 12.75 | 12.75 | 12.75 | 70,000 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 20 | 20 | 19.75 | 19.75 | 300,300 |
| Manila Water Co. Inc. | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 2,843,000 |
| Petron Corp. | 4.45 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 630,000 |
| Trans-Asia Oil and Energy | 0.93 | 0.93 | 0.93 | 0.93 | 100,000 |
| FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO | | | | | |
| Ginebra San Miguel Inc. | 19.25 | 19.25 | 18.5 | 18.5 | 51,700 |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 37 | 37 | 36 | 36 | 273,000 |
| Pancake House Inc. | 3.7 | 3.95 | 3.7 | 3.95 | 765,000 |
| Roxas Holdings Inc. | 2.38 | 2.42 | 2.38 | 2.42 | 677,000 |
| Swift Food Inc. | 0.195 | 0.195 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 220,000 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 60.5 | 60.5 | 60 | 60.5 | 99,500 |
| San Miguel Corp. B | 81.5 | 83 | 81 | 81.5 | 64,500 |
| Universal Robina Corp. | 17.75 | 18 | 17.75 | 18 | 449,500 |
| Vitarich Corp. | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.29 | 980,000 |
| CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES | | | | | |
| Southeast Asian Cement | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 1,890,000 |
| Engineering Equip. Inc. | 1.44 | 1.48 | 1.44 | 1.44 | 805,000 |
| Holcim Philippines Inc. | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 404,000 |
| CHEMICALS | | | | | |
| Euro-Med Lab. Phil., Inc. | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 20,000 |
| Mabuhay Vinyl Corp. | 0.73 | 0.73 | 0.73 | 0.73 | 10,000 |
| DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS | | | | | |
| Steniel Manufacturing | 0.48 | 0.52 | 0.42 | 0.52 | 490,000 |
| HOLDING FIRMS | | | | | |
| Ayala Corp. | 357.5 | 357.5 | 352.5 | 355 | 104,670 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 51,000 |
| Alo Net Holdings Inc. | 0.023 | 0.023 | 0.023 | 0.023 | 1,000,000 |
| A. Soriano Corp. | 2.6 | 2.65 | 2.55 | 2.55 | 3,523,000 |
| APC Group Inc. | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.22 | 0.22 | 2,120,000 |
| Anglo Phil Holdings Corp. | 0.91 | 0.91 | 0.88 | 0.88 | 1,310,000 |
| Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc. | 8.9 | 8.9 | 8.9 | 8.9 | 3,000 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 0.99 | 0.99 | 0.99 | 0.99 | 2,780,000 |
| DMCI Holdings Inc. | 3.3 | 3.35 | 3.3 | 3.35 | 4,346,000 |
| Filinvest Dev. Corp. | 2.9 | 3.05 | 2.9 | 3 | 3,100,000 |
| House of Investments Inc. | 1.28 | 1.28 | 1.24 | 1.24 | 120,000 |
| J.G. Summit Holdings Inc. | 5.6 | 5.8 | 5.6 | 5.8 | 253,000 |
| Medco Holdings | 0.24 | 0.245 | 0.235 | 0.245 | 700,000 |
| Multitech Inv. Corp. | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 230,000 |
| Pacifica | 0.011 | 0.011 | 0.011 | 0.011 | 4,100,000 |
| Prime Orion Phils. Inc. | 0.245 | 0.245 | 0.245 | 0.245 | 70,000 |
| Prime Media Holdings Inc. | 0.95 | 0.95 | 0.95 | 0.95 | 20,000 |
| Sinophil Corp. | 0.145 | 0.145 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 3,050,000 |
| SM Investments Corp. | 228 | 228 | 227 | 228 | 44,400 |
| South China Resources Inc. | 0.72 | 0.72 | 0.72 | 0.72 | 50,000 |
| Unioil Res. & Holdings Co | 0.0575 | 0.0575 | 0.0575 | 0.0575 | 100,000 |
| Wellex Industries Inc. | 0.125 | 0.13 | 0.125 | 0.13 | 110,000 |
| PROPERTY | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 10.75 | 10.75 | 10.5 | 10.75 | 290,800 |
| Araneta Properties Inc. | 0.33 | 0.33 | 0.33 | 0.33 | 120,000 |
| Belle Corp. | 1.1 | 1.12 | 1.1 | 1.12 | 3,477,000 |
| Crown Equities Inc. | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 2,500,000 |
| Cebu Holdings Inc. | 1.86 | 1.86 | 1.84 | 1.84 | 530,000 |
| C&P Homes Inc. | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 7,000 |
| Cebu Prop. Vent. A | 1.06 | 1.08 | 1.06 | 1.08 | 130,000 |
| Cyber Bay Corp. | 0.205 | 0.21 | 0.205 | 0.21 | 560,000 |
| EIB Realty Developers Inc. | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.22 | 0.24 | 920,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc. | 0.63 | 0.67 | 0.63 | 0.64 | 41,720,000 |
| Ever-Gotesco Resources | 0.029 | 0.029 | 0.029 | 0.029 | 200,000 |
| Fairmont Holdings Inc. | 0.68 | 0.68 | 0.68 | 0.68 | 150,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc. | 1.36 | 1.36 | 1.32 | 1.32 | 5,066,000 |
| Highlands Prime Inc. | 3.3 | 3.5 | 3 | 3.4 | 515,000 |
| Interport Res. | 0.0048 | 0.0048 | 0.0048 | 0.0048 | 28,000,000 |
| Kuok Phil. Properties | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.225 | 0.225 | 600,000 |
| Fil-Estate Land Inc. | 0.57 | 0.57 | 0.56 | 0.56 | 210,000 |
| Megaworld Corp. | 1.48 | 1.5 | 1.48 | 1.48 | 2,785,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp. | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.25 | 0.26 | 120,560,000 |
| Robinsons Land Corp. | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 999,000 |
| Phil Realty and Holdings | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.27 | 0.28 | 8,630,000 |
| SM Development Corp. | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.54 | 1.54 | 323,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 7.9 | 7.9 | 7.8 | 7.8 | 6,841,000 |
| Uniwide Holdings Inc. | 0.145 | 0.145 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 830,000 |
| MEDIA | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 11.75 | 11.75 | 11.75 | 11.75 | 8,100 |
| TELECOMMUNICATIONS | | | | | |
| Digital Telecom Phils Inc. | 0.98 | 0.98 | 0.98 | 0.98 | 1,290,000 |
| Globe Telecom Inc. | 880 | 885 | 880 | 880 | 29,660 |
| Pilipino Tel. Corp. | 2.95 | 2.95 | 2.9 | 2.95 | 1,459,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 1895 | 1905 | 1895 | 1905 | 149,220 |
| INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY | | | | | |
| Boulevard Holdings Inc. | 0.195 | 0.195 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 2,830,000 |
| Ionics Inc. | 1.34 | 1.36 | 1.34 | 1.36 | 259,000 |
| ISM Communications Corp. | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 700,000 |
| Philweb Corp. | 0.025 | 0.025 | 0.024 | 0.025 | 20,200,000 |
| TRANSPORTATION SERVICES | | | | | |
| Asian Terminals Inc. | 2.24 | 2.4 | 2.24 | 2.32 | 1,779,000 |
| Int'l Container Term'l Sv | 11.25 | 11.25 | 11.25 | 11.25 | 3,608,000 |
| Lorenzo Shipping Corp. | 1.26 | 1.26 | 1.26 | 1.26 | 2,000 |
| HOTEL & LEISURE | | | | | |
| Acesite Phils Hotel Corp. | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 1,307,000 |
| Leisure & Resorts Corp. | 1.82 | 1.82 | 1.78 | 1.78 | 919,000 |
| Manila Jockey Club | 3 | 3.05 | 3 | 3.05 | 20,000 |
| Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc. | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 100,000 |
| Waterfront Phils. Inc. | 0.44 | 0.44 | 0.43 | 0.43 | 50,000 |
| EDUCATION | | | | | |
| Far Eastern University | 650 | 650 | 650 | 650 | 100 |
| DIVERSIFIED SERVICES | | | | | |
| Macroasia Corp. | 1.86 | 2.06 | 1.86 | 2.02 | 3,142,000 |
| Paxys Inc. | 8.7 | 8.8 | 8.7 | 8.8 | 738,000 |
| MINING | | | | | |
| Apex Mining Co. Inc. A | 1.22 | 1.24 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 2,327,000 |
| Apex Mining Co. Inc. B | 1.36 | 1.36 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 211,000 |
| Abra Mining & Industrial | 0.0065 | 0.0065 | 0.0065 | 0.0065 | 44,000,000 |
| Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't | 6.8 | 6.8 | 6.7 | 6.8 | 256,000 |
| Benguet Corp. A | 7 | 8 | 7 | 7.6 | 456,000 |
| Benguet Corp. B | 28.5 | 30 | 28.5 | 30 | 1,500 |
| Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A | 0.22 | 0.22 | 0.215 | 0.215 | 4,040,000 |
| Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.25 | 0.26 | 3,800,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. A | 0.018 | 0.019 | 0.018 | 0.019 | 31,500,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. B | 0.026 | 0.026 | 0.025 | 0.026 | 216,900,000 |
| Omico Corp. | 0.0055 | 0.0055 | 0.0055 | 0.0055 | 44,000,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. A | 2.6 | 2.65 | 2.55 | 2.55 | 6,163,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. B | 2.65 | 2.65 | 2.5 | 2.55 | 5,750,000 |
| Semirara Mining Corp. | 25.5 | 25.5 | 25 | 25.5 | 559,000 |
| United Paragon Mining Co. | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 130,000 |
| OIL | | | | | |
| Basic Consolidated Inc. | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 1,840,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. A | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 232,000,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. B | 0.0085 | 0.0085 | 0.0085 | 0.0085 | 20,000,000 |
| The Philodrill Corp. A | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 140,000 |
| Petroenergy Res. Corp. | 3.8 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 3.9 | 17,000 |
| PREFERRED | | | | | |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series P | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 200 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 300 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 3,000 |
| PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 800 |
| WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC. | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr) | 11.75 | 11.75 | 11.75 | 11.75 | 710,000 |

## CURRENCIES

| March 30, 2006<br>Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Dollar Equivalent | Peso Equivalent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 0.831255 | 1.000000 | 51.2380 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.007057 | 0.008490 | 0.4350 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.442228 | 1.735000 | 88.8979 |
| Hongkong | Dollar | 0.107121 | 0.128866 | 6.6028 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.634643 | 0.763475 | 39.1189 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.709564 | 0.853606 | 43.7371 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.512520 | 0.616561 | 31.5914 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.586879 | 0.706015 | 36.1748 |
| Bahrain | Dinar* | 2.205799 | 2.653576 | 135.9639 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.221668 | 0.266667 | 13.6635 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.510944 | 0.614666 | 31.4943 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000091 | 0.000110 | 0.0056 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.021347 | 0.025681 | 1.3158 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.226346 | 0.272294 | 13.9518 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 1.203000 | 61.6393 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134024 | 0.161231 | 8.2612 |
| India | Rupee | 0.018667 | 0.022457 | 1.1507 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.224968 | 0.270636 | 13.8668 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.075992 | 0.091418 | 4.6841 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.501814 | 0.603682 | 30.9315 |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.132200 | 0.159109 | 8.1524 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000853 | 0.001026 | 0.0526 |
| Taiwan | Nt Dollar | 0.025543 | 0.030728 | 1.5744 |

# Shares close flat

From page B1

weighed down the blue chips.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index slipped 0.94 points to 2,180.64 after moving between 2,175.40 and 2,189.83.

Volume reached 985.24 million shares worth P1.79 billion. Gainers outnumbered losers 50 to 38, while 47 stocks were unchanged.

The broader all-shares gained 7.45 points to 1,065.10.

Philippine officials announced earlier that the country's economic growth target for 2006 has been scaled down to 5.5-6.2 percent from a 5.7-6.3 percent range.

"The slower economic growth target and the Fed's indication that more interest rates will be forthcoming gave investors an excuse to take profit after a good rally last week," said Jonathan Ravelas of Banco de Oro Universal Bank. *AFP*

# New York Life unit in RP sees 30% jump in sales this year

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE Philippines Inc., a subsidiary of the American insurance giant, sees sales swelling 30 percent this year boosted mainly by its dollar products.

NYLIP president George May said that with the peso's strength, it would be cheaper for consumers to avail themselves of dollar-based insurance products.

May said he remained bullish on the Philippine market, adding that he expected a "banner year" this year with the current pace of economic growth.

He admitted that last year was a tough year for both life insurers and pre-need firms owing to the reported scandals that rocked firms which sold open-ended education plans.

In order to motivate more Filipinos to save, NYLIP yesterday launched new products—NYL Big Apple Advantage—a two-in-one investment and life insurance plan. For a minimum investment of $400 to $500 (P15,000 to P20,000) in regular premiums, one can invest in four types of funds.

NYLIP's peso fixed income fund yields around 18.8 percent to date from investments in government bonds and commercial papers. Its Philippine Equity Fund will be placed in blue-chip stocks and may generate a return of 14 percent. A dollar fixed-income fund is invested in fixed income instruments issued by the Philippine government and may yield roughly 14.6 percent for the investor. A managed fund—or a combination of fixed income instruments and equity—can generate returns of up to 18 percent.

Allied Bank Corp. of taipan Lucio Tan owns 25 percent in NYLIP. Their alliance was formed three years ago to take advantage of bancassurance efforts. NYLIP runs several offices in Metro Manila, Batangas, Pampanga, Dagupan, Pangasinan, Baguio, Cebu, Davao and Cagayan de Oro. It has more than 1,000 licensed agents.

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| Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts | Current Week Mar. 28, 2006 | Last Week Mar. 21, 2006 |
|---|---|---|
| Bond Fund - Peso | 1.44675 | 1.42399 |
| Managed Fund - Peso | 1.56602 | 1.54596 |
| Growth Fund - Peso | 1.18355 | 1.17891 |
| Bond Fund - US Dollar | 1.2481 | 1.2471 |

* Note These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

| Investment Funds of Wealth Builder and Wealth Secure | UNIT PRICES (in Php) | |
|---|---|---|
| | March 27, 2006 | March 20, 2006 |
| Fixed Income Fund | 1.152685 | 1.143952 |
| Balanced Fund | 1.143612 | 1.131318 |
| Equity Fund | 1.124576 | 1.103936 |

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.
The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

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| Washer | Topload | ~~P24,950~~ | P 17,500. |

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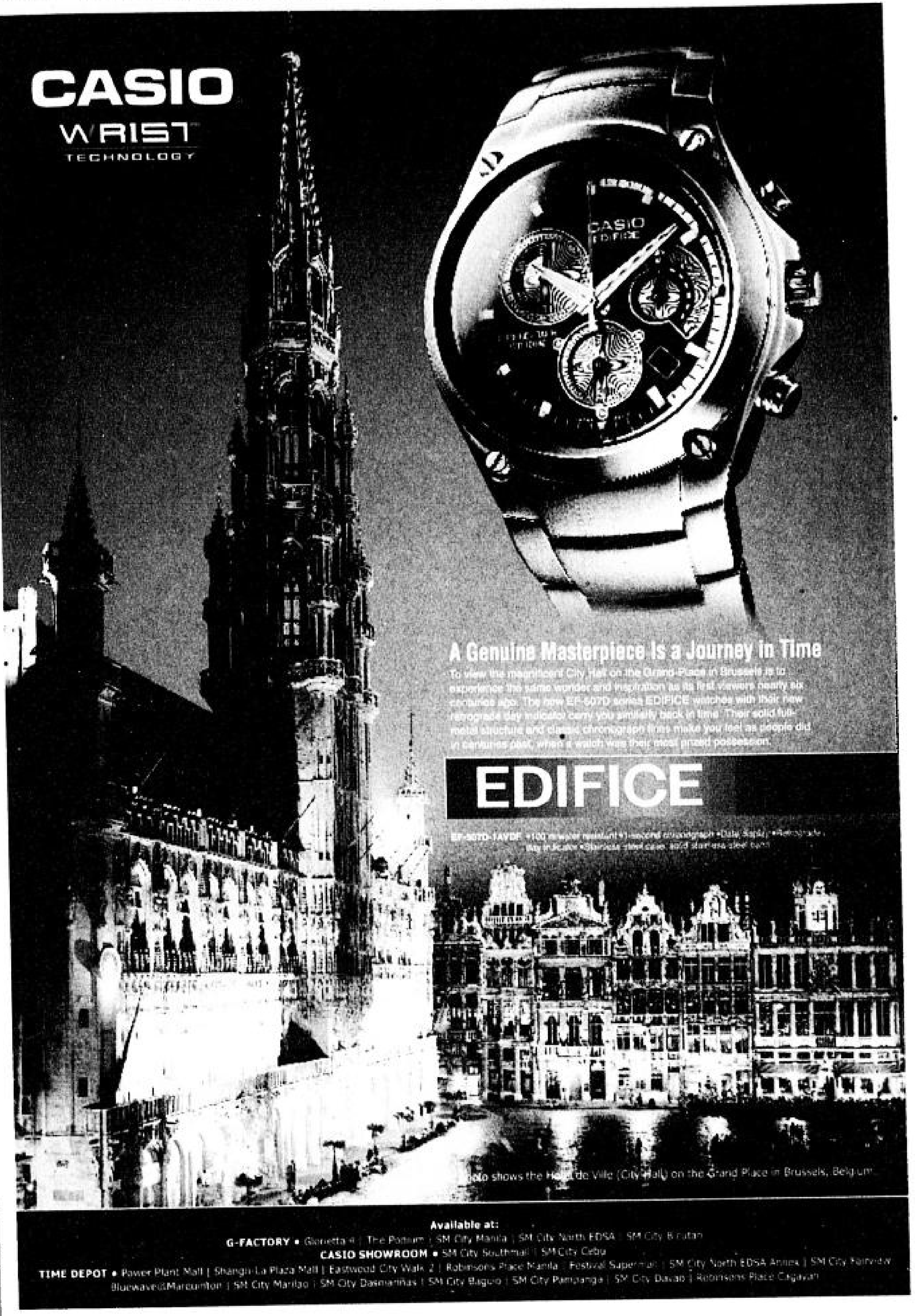
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# *Anacleta A. de los Reyes*

**(Tiya Cleta)**

of Obando, Bulacan

*has peacefully joined her Creator on March 28, 2006.*

Her children, **Director Ting** of the Department of Tourism, **Noemi** and **Dan Punzal, Reimbrando** and **Flor, Raul** and **Nonet**; her grandchildren, **Margarita, Isabelle, Jo-Ann, Liberty, Bea, JT, Nene, Rafael** and **Cheenee**; her brother, **Sendoy**; her brother-in-law, **Rufino**, and sisters-in-law, **Elena, Angelina, Julita** and **Cely**, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence in Paliwas, Obando, Bulacan. Interment will be on Sunday, April 2, 2006 after a Requiem Mass at the Obando Catholic Church at 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

---

*"The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want;*
*He makes me lie down in green pastures;*
*He leads me beside still waters; He restores my soul."*

# Bernarda Santiago Torres

## "Betty"

**of Fernando Air Base, Lipa City and Calumpit, Bulacan**

*peacefully joined our Creator on March 30, 2006 at the age of 85.*

Her bereaved family, parents **Norberto** (†) and **Damiana** (†); brothers and sister **Gabino** (†) and Eufracia (†); **Simeon** (†) and Narcisa (†), **Ramon** (†) and Lydia, Marciano (†) and **Catalina** (†) **Mesina**, Castor (†) and **Leonora Baltazar**, Adriano (†) and **Luz** (†) **Cruz**; nephews, nieces and grandchildren request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Miraculous Medal Mortuary, Fernando Air Base, Lipa City and will be transferred to the St. John the Baptist Church, Calumpit, Bulacan on March 31, 2006.

She will be laid to rest at the family mausoleum located at the Calumpit Catholic Cemetery on Saturday, April 1, 2006 after the 3:00 p.m. Mass.

*"Our Lord God has you in His Keeping, we have you in our hearts."*

---

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Our Dearly Beloved

# PAYAPA TECSON LIGON

*Peacefully joined our Lord and her husband* ***Virgilio V. Ligon*** *on March 30, 2006 at the age of 92.*

Her children **Vilma, Linda & Vic, Roland (†) & Becky, Roy, Gerry & Cellie, Julie & Dedo, Baby & Charlie, Arlene & Vicot, Jasmine & Mario**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Sanctuario de San Antonio Parish, Capilla de San Francisco, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be on April 4, 2006 at Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

---

# Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

## *Filemon S. Padiernos*

of Gapan, Nueva Ecija

wish to convey our deepest appreciation to our relatives and friends, who spent precious time with us, sent flowers, mass cards, gave donations, or in some other ways have expressed their love, concern, and support in celebrating *Filemon's* coming to his Creator and Savior.

*Into your hands, I commit my spirit,*
*redeem me O Lord, the God of Salvation.*
*Psalms 31:5*

---

# MARIANO RIEGO RIVERAL

of Ilocos Sur

*Died in the Grace of our Lord on March 29, 2006 at the age of 91.*

Funeral Mass will be on April 2, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will follow at Himlayang Pilipino immediately after the mass.

---

# JUANITA ANGPAN GOCHIAN

*Peacefully joined our Lord on March 26, 2006 at the age of 67.*

Her loving husband **Jose**; children **Jose Jr., Josephine (†), Jean, Jocelyn, Jimmy & Julie**; in-laws & grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz-Recto, Chapel 2.

Interment will be on Tuesday, April 4, 2006 at Chinese Cemetery.

---

> **"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."**
> — 2 Corinthians 5:8

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---

# GUIA ESTRELLA REYES ECHIVERRI

*Peacefully joined her Creator on March 29, 2006 at the age of 53.*

Her loving husband **Engr. Mark**, daughter **Guialou**, brothers and sisters, and in-laws request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on April 5, 2006 at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque after the 9:30 a.m. Mass at Saint Andrew Apostle Parish, Bel-Air, Makati City.

---

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# Online gaming firm expands

By Daxim L. Lucas

ONLINE GAME DISTRIBUTOR DIGITAL Media Exchange Inc. (DME) is set to double its authorized capital following its expansion into online payment services.

The new capital will reach as high as $5 million courtesy of the company's partners like the Japan Asia Investment Corp. (JAIC), the third-biggest venture capital firm in Japan, California Pacific Capital, and a yet unnamed Taiwanese entrepreneur.

"The investment is expected to help the company capture a significant share of the estimated $3.5 billion e-commerce market in the Philippines," DME president Jojo A. Añonuevo said in a briefing.

DME is a local pioneer in the field of interactive digital entertainment and manages popular online games.

Through a new division called Mobius Online, the P50-million company will enable 3.5 million Mobius gaming subscribers to pay for products and services such as prepaid cell phone cards, Internet cards, landline phone cards, VoIP (voice over Internet protocol) credits and game cards over the site.

The subscribers use Mobius Online currency called ePoints to pay for game time and load up their various game accounts. DME hosts three of the most popular "massively multiplayer online games" in the country: the epic MU Online role-playing game; the casual shooting game Gunbound, and an interactive online community called GoPets.

The universal online currency of ePoints replaces the old system of using credit cards, prepaid cards and different denominations for paying for Mobius products and services.

DME allocated a large percentage of the investment to creating a scalable but cost-effective payment platform. The company partnered with Seer Technologies to create a system to handle as much as 100,000 transactions a day.

Añonuevo said the company planned to grow the business in several areas. The company expects to grow its human resources from its current 150 personnel to 300 deployed all over its Southeast Asian operations by year's end.

Its Internet games division Mobius.ph continues to attract new subscribers and will be licensing more content. Meantime, the 6-month-old Mobius Online will also be expanding its product and service offerings.

"With the exception of DVD titles, the products we offer are all virtual," Añonuevo said. "However, talks are ongoing with fast food companies. Before long, our members will be able to order their food online."

# MacroAsia up on mining news

SHARES OF MACROASIA CORP. YESTERDAY surged on news that the company was holding talks with major Canadian, Chinese and Japanese mining firms on a possible joint exploration of its mining site in Palawan.

Owned by business tycoon Lucio Tan, publicly listed MacroAsia is primarily engaged in aviation-related services, but the firm inherited its mining rights from Cobertson Holdings Corp., formerly Infanta Mineral & Industrial Corp.

In a March 28 disclosure, MacroAsia told the Philippine Stock Exchange that it obtained a Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau covering 1,114 hectares of land in Brookes Point, Palawan.

"With this MPSA, MacroAsia shall have the exclusive right to conduct mining operations within, but not title over, the contracted area. Mining operations that are allowed include exploration, development and utilization for commercial purposes of nickel, chromite, iron and other associated mineral deposits that may be found in the area," the firm said.

The MPSA has a term not exceeding 25 years from date of issuance and is renewable for another 25 years under the same terms and conditions as the original agreement.

MacroAsia president Joseph Chua said several mining firms from Canada, China and Japan have approached the company for a possible joint exploration of its Palawan mine site.

# ABS-CBN . . .

From page B1

2005] compared to [2004], while operating costs, though controlled, maintained its growth," ABS-CBN said in a statement.

More importantly, the company will likely muddle through this year once more since boosting revenues by raising advertising rates is no longer possible after it lost its lead to GMA Network.

"We have not increased out rates for this year," ABS-CBN chief financial officer Randolph Estrellado said during the briefing. "If we are to be more competitive, given where we are today in terms of ratings, it wouldn't make sense to increase rates."

In contrast, GMA Network chair and CEO Felipe Gozon disclosed last week that they intended to raise advertising rates as most of its TV programs were already overloaded in terms of advertising minutes.

ABS-CBN's gross revenues rose by 8 percent to P17 billion in 2005, driven by license fees from DirecTV and the continued growth of ABS-CBN Global revenues.

However, gross revenues declined by 7 percent to P10.3 billion as its so-called "Mega Manila" channel 2 households ratings declined further to 14 percent in 2005 from 16 percent in 2004.

# MPC scare

## COCKTALES

*Victor C. Agustin*

PUMPING FRESH MONEY INTO A CASH-strapped company ought to be a good thing, but that is not how stock punters have so far viewed the complicated restructuring plan of Metro Pacific Corp.

MPC lost nearly 18 percent of its value Wednesday when the stock resumed trading after a one-day halt.

Yesterday, MPC continued its losing streak, closing at 26 centavos, nine centavos, or 26 percent, down from its pre-halt closing, despite the assurance that MPC's new partner, the London-based Ashmore Investment Management Ltd., holds nearly $17 billion in emerging market debts and equities.

On a much longer timeline, MPC already shed nearly half of its shareholder value from its 52-week high of 49 centavos.

Yesterday, the normally glib MPC spokesman, David Nugent, was stumped for an explanation, attributing the continuing price slide to "misunderstanding" of the contemplated reverse stock split and eventual swapping of MPC shares into a new Metro Pacific Investments Corp.

"There are many people who don't like what they don't readily understand," Nugent said.

Given the continuing jitters, expect MPC chair Manuel V. Pangilinan and his "Thinking Ahead" cavalry to hold a series of investors' briefings. MVP's probable spiel: He would turn around MPC just like what he did to PLDT. But, in the absence of a clear revenue driver, the question is, how?

### Mike boys test SEC

THE ORDER of no-nonsense SEC Chair Fe Barin was clear: Philcomsat Holdings Corp. must hold its annual stockholders' meeting "not later than April 17."

Instead, the Malacañang nominees led by Free Press publisher and grand mason Enrique Locsin, Mike Arroyo cousin Benito "Bomboy" Araneta and Mike Arroyo's 90-year-old uncle Manuel Nieto Jr. are calling for a "special" stockholders' meeting on April 18, a day past the deadline.

And instead of a board election, the agenda is limited to one item: the amendment of the articles of incorporation to extend the life of the corporation. But there is catch.

The stockholders' notice sent out by PHC assistant corporate secretary Delfin Angcao—the previous corsec had been suspended for chicanery by the Supreme Court no less—still refuses to recognize the Supreme Court decision that the combined government and Nieto blocks no longer represent the majority ownership of the listed company.

With the desired amendment, the present overstaying board of PHC—Araneta had already been ordered replaced by then President Estrada after the private shareholders complained that P390 million of intra-company funds had been funneled into another company controlled by another cousin, Antonio Araneta—shall have obtained a new mandate.

In other words, while the political pot is bubbling on Malacañang-endorsed Charter change, the Mike boys are brewing their version of corporate cha-cha. Both have the same aim—prolong the tenure.

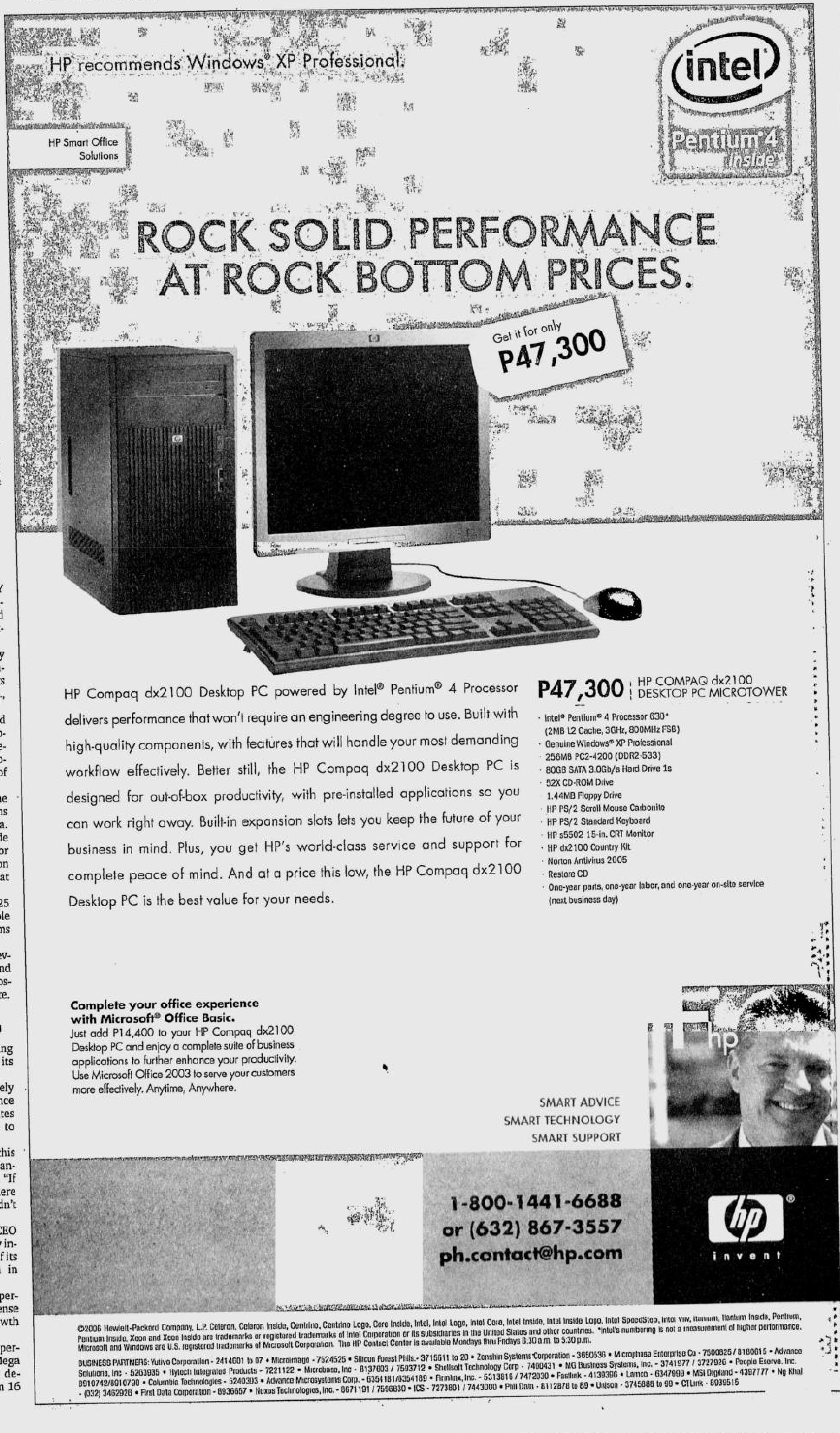
### Money-go-round

- AFTER dumping 90 million ICTSI shares at an average of P12.25/share in late January, port services king Enrique Razon Jr. was back in the market early this week, scooping up 32.6 million ICTSI shares at P11.25 each.
- TWENTY strategic planners of multinational ad agency DDB are today concluding a regional meeting at the Cebu Waterfront Hotel, their conference hopefully not spoiled by the unseasonal summer rains.

### Heard through the grapevine

ECONOMIC Planning Secretary Romulo Neri is an approachable chap, but to those who could not reach him, the go-to-guy that has more than his ears is a certain Neda consultant by the name of "Jun" Lozada.

*(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)*



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# Scientists race to save Abaca

## Experts turn to genetics as diseases threaten country's top export draw

By Christine A. Gaylican

GOVERNMENT AGRICULTURISTS ARE now racing against time to save the country's abaca fiber industry that is now under threat fro three major diseases.

The experts are now trying to develop a genetically modified abaca fiber, stepping up their research which, according to the scientists, may be the best and only hope to solve the problems now threatening the country's endemic crop.

Abaca is still a major dollar earner, with the Philippines providing 85 percent of the world supply, according to the Fiber Industry Development Authority (Fida).

Government efforts to control the spread of the diseases—abaca mosaic, abaca bunchy-top virus and abaca bract mosaic—through Fida's Oplan Abaca Program are bound to fail, Fida administrator Cecille Gloria Soriano said.

She noted that the diseases have spread like wildfire in different abaca plantations.

According to Soriano, the abaca industry's only hope lies in modern biotechnology, in particular, the development of a disease-resistant breed of plants.

The industry needs to maintain high production output if it aims to keep its share in the world market, Soriano said.

She cited massive infection in at least three abaca-producing regions, which she feared would affect the country's export revenues.

In 2002, at least 7,774.35 hectares of abaca plantation, including those in the Bicol region, Eastern Visayas and Caraga, were affected by the diseases. The following year, 23,000 hectares were affected.

"We in Fida believe that the only permanent method to control the disease is by developing GMA (genetically-modified abaca)," according to Josephine Regalado, chief of the Fida crop research division.

Through modern biotechnology, she said, they would easily determine and detect diseases, thus preventing them from infecting and spreading into the open fields.

The demand for abaca and its products, including raw fiber, cordage, pulp, fibercraft, materials for cosmetic industry, and fiber composites in car manufacture, remains high.

Exports of abaca fibers generate average annual earnings of US$76 million or P4.2 billion.

An estimated 1.5 million Filipinos depend on abaca for a living. As of 2004, Fida reported that there are 77,526 farmers, cultivating a total area of 127,258 hectares of abaca.

Soriano said Fida's task is to distribute disease-free planting materials.

According to Regalado, they are now working on producing clean, high-yielding and disease-free planting materials.

She said they are currently using biotechnology techniques in disease "indexing" to detect and determine diseases that affect planting materials."

"We have to fiercely attack the disease, or else we will lose all our abaca," Regalado warned.

# Transco set to bid out 6 contested projects

By Abigail L. Ho

LOCAL CONTRACTOR ALPHAOMEGA Integrated Corp. will be seeking international arbitration for the case involving the National Transmission Corp.'s (Transco) takeover of P93.5 million worth of projects that the contractor has allegedly left unfinished.

Transco vice president and legal counsel Noel de Leon said AlphaOmega would justify before the arbiter its leaving six Transco projects unfinished.

"What they are saying is that they incurred losses as a result of what they perceived as an unreasonable delay (in the fulfillment of Transco's part in the contracts). That's one of the issues that will be resolved," he told reporters.

Transco recently took over the construction of three of the six power transmission facilities that were being constructed by AlphaOmega, following the contractor's failure to complete the projects within the contract period.

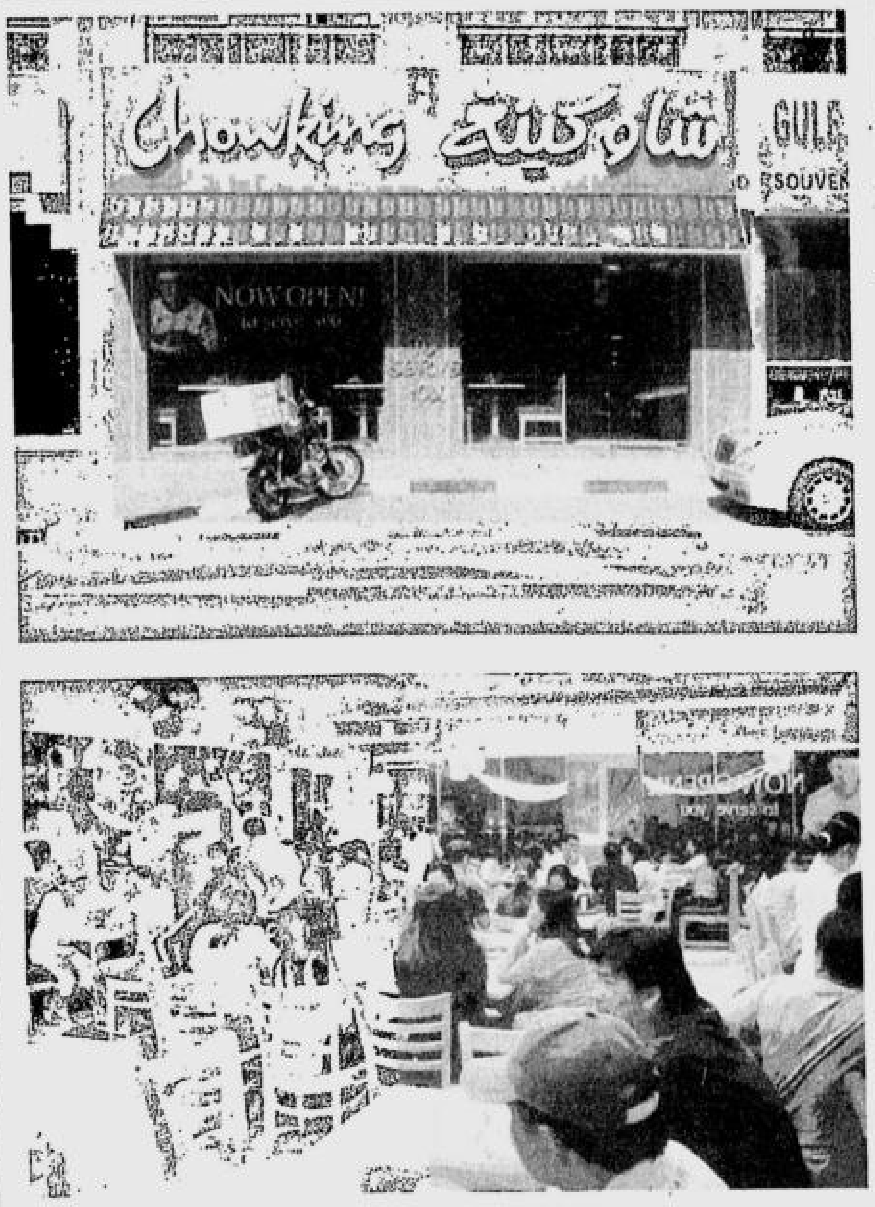
The state firm is now preparing to take over the remaining three projects.

Transco president and chief executive Alan Ortiz had earlier said that the takeover decision had to be made as AlphaOmega had stopped all construction activities since December 2005.

All six projects were supposed to have been completed last year, he said.

But AlphaOmega president and general manager Edgar Herrera said the contractor was not the only one to blame for the work stoppage, saying Transco was also unable to fulfill its obligations under their contracts.

"Right of way problems and Transco's failure to furnish materials on time caused all the problems," he said.



**SAY CHINESE TAKEOUT IN ARABIC**
CHOWKING Food Corp. stepped up its global expansion with the recent opening of a fifth store in the United Arab Emirates, boosting its international presence to 17 stores. Chowking is a member of the Jollibee Group, the largest fast-food chain in the Philippines. The group has a combined network of more than 1,300 stores worldwide.

# Gov't urged to give up grant of cement incentives

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S CEMENT MANUFACturers have asked government to abandon the plan to grant fiscal incentives to new investors in the cement industry.

The Cement Manufacturers Association of the Philippines (Cemap), said that attracting more investors to the cement industry would aggravate the problem of under-utilization of production capacity among existing players.

Some of the members of Cemap used to enjoy fiscal incentives.

Ernesto Ordoñez, Cemap president, said in a position paper that current capacity utilization rate is estimated at 50 percent, leaving cement firms unable to meet their expected return on investments.

Welcoming more investors by granting perks such as tax holidays, therefore, will run counter to the objective of helping existing investors improve the anemic capacity utilization rate.

The Board of Investments earlier expressed its intention to again include the cement industry under the government's Investment Priorities Plan (IPP).

The BOI justified the plan by citing an estimate that the construction industry, which accounts for a substantial amount of cement sales, is likely to register a 12-percent growth in the next five years.

The BOI said that because of the expected growth of the construction sector, the domestic supply of cement might be inadequate by 2010 if no new investors would come in.

But Cemap said the 12-percent growth projection was too optimistic.

It added that should the construction industry grow by 12 percent, this would result only in a 2-percent growth of the cement industry. Cemap's estimates show that cement industry grows by one percent for every 6-percent growth in the construction sector.

Cemap said that a 2-percent growth in the cement industry would only help improve the capacity utilization rate of existing players to only 72 percent, a figure which the group still considers low.

# RFM settles 4-year strike at Swift plant

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE MANAGEMENT of RFM CORP. HAS reached a settlement with workers who staged a labor strike at Swift Foods Inc.'s meat packaging plant in Cabuyao, Laguna.

The settlement ended a four-year protracted standoff, RFM president Jose A. Concepcion III told reporters yesterday.

Swift's labor union has around 320 members.

However, Concepcion did not say when the RFM Group intends to resume operations at the plant.

Concepcion also said that there are options being considered for the five-hectare property where the meat plant now stands. The options include redeveloping the property, and sale or lease of the property to other operators.

This year, RFM Corp. has also earmarked P17 million for the improvement of its flour mill on Pioneer Street in Mandaluyong.

RFM continued its recovery in the first nine months of 2005, saying it had hit P68 million, a 45 percent increase from last year. RFM reported net sales of P4.49 billion for the first three quarters, an increase of 11 percent from P4.06 billion in the same period in 2004.

# Air Philippines launches ₱1 fare

AIR PHILIPPINES, WHICH WANTS TO BE the country's leading low cost carrier, has launched its Piso Fare program.

The offering is expected to boost travel during the traditional low season and support the airline's campaign to increase domestic tourism.

The one peso, one way fare program covers flights to any of Air Philippines' destinations and does not include taxes and other surcharges.

Selling period is from April 1 to 15 for travel starting June 16 to Oct. 15, 2006. Seats under the piso fare program are on book and buy basis. Tickets are issued only upon confirmation of booking.

Air Philippines advised passengers wanting to avail themselves of the promotion to buy their tickets early to ensure the availability of their seats.

Air Philippines' offer comes at the heels of rival Cebu Pacific's announcement of its own P1 fare program.

Cebu Pacific's one-peso fare program started the other day and would run until April 2 or until the seats are sold out.

There are more than 50,000 seats available for this promo, extended on a first-come, first-served basis, exclusive of taxes and surcharges.

"We are the country's low fare leader and we will always have the lowest fares to any destination we fly to," Cebu Pacific general manager Bong Mojica said in a statement. "It's all about making flying more affordable to more people And now that we're giving out our seats practically for free, almost anyone can fly."

He added that the airline was encouraged by the success of its previous promo, which was launched to coincide with its 10th anniversary celebrations.

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LOT 7 - LOT ONLY
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Minimum Bid Price 287,000.00
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LAGUNA
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# *Lending facility for military officers' dependents planned*

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR ENtrepreneurship together with the presidential adviser for job generation will open a P3-P4 million lending facility for military officers' dependents who are interested to venture into small and medium enterprises.

Presidential consultant for entrepreneurship Jose A. Concepcion III told reporters yesterday that "Go Negosyo," the business forum organized by PCE, will provide entrepreneur candidates to the "Entrep Iskolar" program, a partnership between PCE, the government and the Entrepreneurs School of Asia.

A total of 200 scholars will be provided loans of between P15,000 and P20,000 each.

The fund will come from the office of Arthur Yap, presidential adviser for job generation.

Concepcion said PCE was targeting dependents of army, navy, air force officers, as well as Taguig citizens and retired military personnel.

"If we have a stable family within the military, we will see less of these problems (unrest)," Concepcion said in a press briefing.

He said, however, that the program was also open to the public.

PCE is holding a "Micronegosyo Fair" on today and tomorrow at the Philippine Army Gym at Fort Bonifacio Global City in Taguig.

The discussions will cover microfinance, livelihood workshops, skills training and valuable tips on how to start a small business.

Leading entrepreneurs would also be on hand to share their experiences in starting and operating a successful business.

# Jewelry companies gain foothold in Europe–DTI

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL EXPORTERS OF JEWELRY products have gained a foothold in the Italian market after six firms attracted the interest of European retailers, wholesalers and direct importers during the Vicenza Oro Fair held recently.

Vicenza Oro, held in Vicenza, is an international exhibition of gold jewelry, silverware and gemstones.

Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila said this was "a positive sign" that local manufacturers of design-driven products like jewelry could look into possibilities in the European market.

The Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions helped six firms take part in the trade fair.

These are Sanara Inc., 7 Castles Inc., Sterling Gifts Inc., Jewelmer, Mercelles Corp. and A Suarez Sterling Corp.

Citem said bestselling Philippine products in Vicenza were sterling silver, hinged bangles, and pearl earrings and pendants.

Also, Favila urged local jewelry makers to continue looking out for innovation and production techniques to boost the desirability of their products.

In particular, the trade chief noted the importance of exploring the use of laser technology for prototyping and personalizing jewelry.

Last year, 10 local furniture and home furnishing firms registered $4.32 million or about P235 million in sales in the Europe's biggest design expo held in Milan—Salone Internationale del Mobile—where the Philippines had the most number of exhibitors among Asian countries.

Philippine exhibits included those from Design Alchemy, Detalya Aurora, Budji Collections-Edge Pacific Markets, Interior Crafts, Evolve, Cebu Fil-Veneer, Tadeco, Raphael, Silk Cocoon and The Gilded Expressions.

Citem officials said among the crowd-drawers in the Philippine exhibits were Detalya Aurora's chairs made of cork and metals; Interior Crafts' dragnet lounge collection; Tadeco's bagobo pillows; Gilded Expressions's oxygen chair; Design Alchemy's resin vases, and Silk Cocoon's curtains.

They said the country has turned into a major force in defining the Asian design through combinations of indigenous and modern materials.

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The BPI Madness Fairs enables BPI cardholders to buy appliances at low interest rates and the most convenient payment terms. BPI provides the most advantageous opportunities for cardholders, making it affordable for them to buy consumer electronics and other items that they otherwise would only dream about.

Roger Salvante, Senior Manager of Tricom Dynamics Inc. said that the participation of Toshiba in this year's BPI Madness Fair aims to provide consumers with the opportunity to buy the Toshiba Laptop they most would like to own, on the best possible credit terms.

For further information, please contact:

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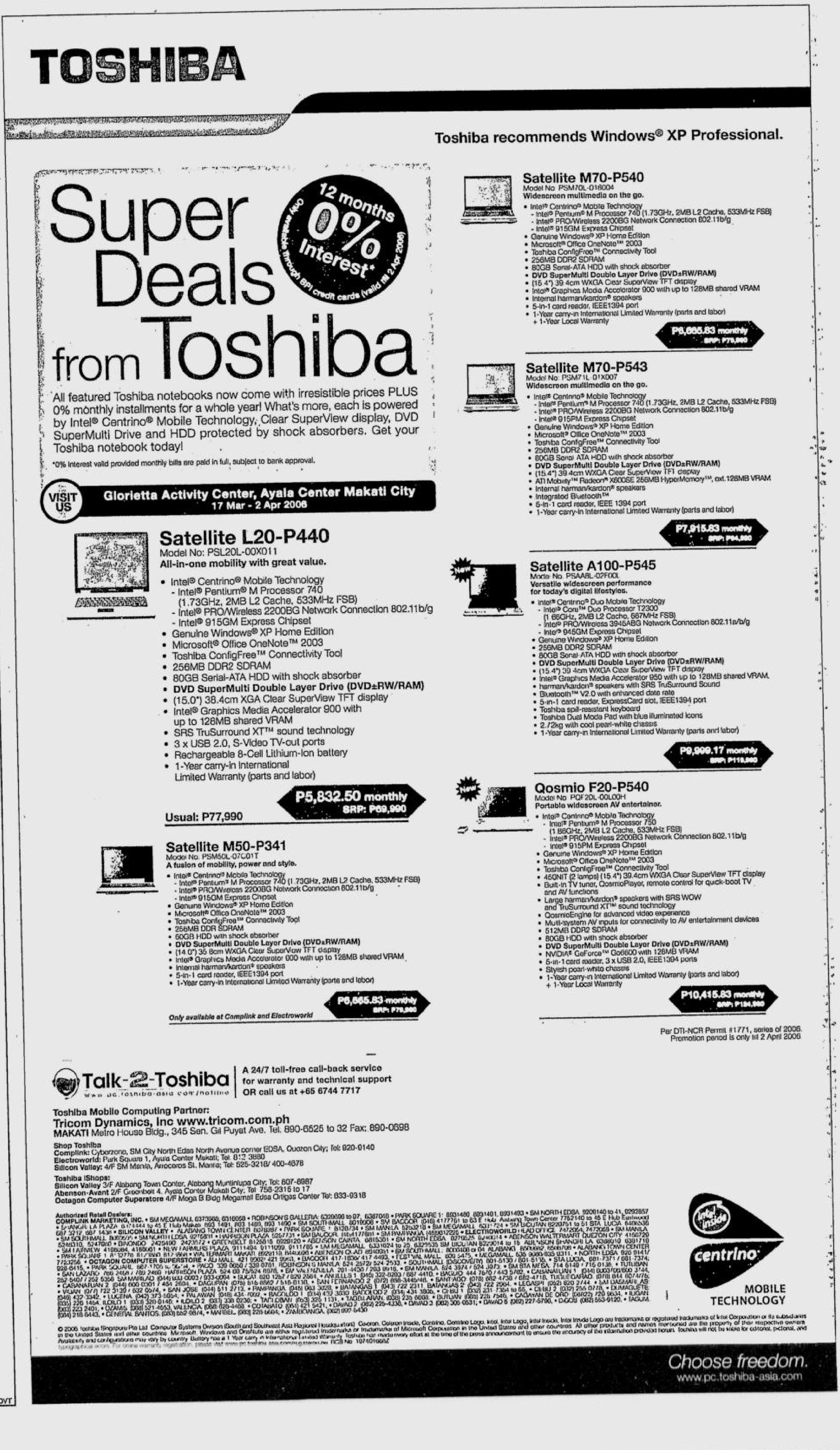

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# Vaseline campaign makes mothers glow inside

MEDIA MOMS RECEIVED A GLOWING tribute at the launch of Vaseline's latest campaign held recently at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila. Unilever's premier family shampoo brand ushered in graduation season with "Glowing Inside," which recognizes a mom's unsung role in her children's education.

"Vaseline goes beyond being a mother's partner in maintaining her family's healthy hair by creating initiatives that strengthen the close personal ties between a mother and her children," says brand manager Joy dela Rosa. Hosted by celebrity mom Chiqui Roa, the intimate affair was a celebration of mother-child bonding moments, culminating in milestone occasions like graduation. "Moms often stay away from the limelight during these moments, and this is precisely why we should go out of our way to let them know that we appreciate everything that they've done for us," Dela Rosa adds.

A key component of the campaign is the "Glowing Inside" anthem written by Louie Ocampo and Edith Gallardo, and interpreted by fast-rising pop star Nikki Gil, who credits her mom Julie's guidance for her successful balance of schoolwork and show business. Gil proudly shared her fondest memories of her mother, and even surprised her with a classic silver locket bearing their pictures.

To make the event more meaningful for the attendees, Vaseline presented guests with surprise messages from their children. Nary a dry eye was left in the audience as they watched tribute videos and read thank-you letters that their children made especially for the event. And to sustain the sentimental mood, Gil returned to the stage to deliver a heartfelt performance of "Glowing Inside," leaving the guests all aglow at the end of the day.

The Vaseline "Glowing Inside" campaign also includes a nationwide search for the most creative performance of the anthem during a graduation ceremony, as well as an exciting promo that will surely make learning enjoyable for moms and kids alike. So take part in the "Glowing Inside" campaign and give your mothers the inner glow of love and affection that goes beyond this graduation season.

NIKKI Gil with Unilever officials and composers

# Tourism department creates first computerized jobs databank

THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM (DOT) is setting up a high-tech hiring system and info-technology infrastructure for the Tourism Jobs Fair, which will be staged in Cebu City on April 4 and 5, Davao City from April 4 to 6, and Manila from April 6 to 8.

Intended exclusively for the travel and tourism industry, the fair constitutes the initial phase of the DOT's "TourismJOBs (Jobs, Opportunities, Business)" program, which is designed to address the dearth of qualified talents to fill up job openings in tourism, the need for improvement of the current BS Tourism curriculum to meet the actual needs of tourism enterprises, and the absence of continuing skills training to upgrade the competence of the labor force.

The event will go beyond the usual concept of jobs fairs by serving as DOT's one-stop venue for employers, academe and the labor sector to assess each other's needs and create an employment match.

The TourismJOBs Program Secretariat (525-1153, 525-9318 local 229/230/231) is urging employers, schools, and applicants for various tourism-related jobs to register online (www.tourismjobs.ph).

The website is available all year round. It will continue to gather vacancy postings from tourism industry employers and applications from jobseekers even after the fair. Employers and applicants who have already registered may continue to access their profiles for updates, see new vacancy listings, and post new job slots.

During online or onsite registration, a unique identification number (UIN) will be issued to every applicant. The UIN will appear on the webpage upon the applicant's completion of the registration procedure. The UIN will enable the applicant to access the list of job vacancies in the databank.

SM Mall and PLDT are likewise supporting DOT by accommodating the TourismJOBS Information Kiosk. SM will provide a space for DOT for the kiosk while PLDT will provide free hookup/connections to the Internet lines.

# *Hyundai Motor Co donates 8 buses to PMA*

HYUNDAI MOTOR COMPANY, in cooperation with its sole Philippine distributor, Hyundai Asia Resources Inc (Hari), donated eight 45-seater buses to the Philippine Military Academy Dec. 15, 2005.

As a symbol of Hyundai's pledge of support to the Philippine government, Hari delivered these buses on Saturday, Mar. 25, during PMA's graduation ceremony.

Through the efforts of Hari executive vice president and COO Fe Agudo, the turnover served as an embodiment of Hyundai's sincere commitment of service to humanity and its partnership with the Republic of Korea in strengthening diplomatic ties with the Philippines.

The ceremonial turnover was graced by Korean Ambassador Hong Jong Ki, defense attaché to Korea Col. Lim, Hyundai Malaysia general manager Hyun Guk Ko, and Hyundai Motor Company's Engineer Yoo Ki Yeong.

The buses were accepted by PMA Superintendent Brigadier General Leopoldo Maligalig as an acknowledgement of Hyundai Motor Company's support for the Philippine Military Academy.

## Product FILES

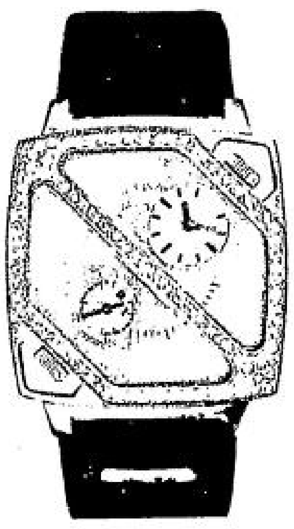
# *Watches for men by Time Depot*

TICKER TRENDS FOR MEN emphasize size and complication, which add "immense drama to the wrists" and are "ideal for daytime since they look serious," says one fashion editor. Time Depot, a one-stop watch specialty store, features the latest fads in watches.

Some of the vogue timepieces for men include: Marc Ecko, wristwatch designed with elegant urban touch and ultra cool and unique lines and curves for the funky and stylish trendsetter, who adores being surrounded by chicks. Marc Ecko designs range from wide cuff link leather styles to stainless steel models for edgy looks.

The ruggedly sleek Nautica reflects upscale, functional style and has a high-tech look in a comfortable casual setting. Most Nautica watches are lightweight and durable, ideal for establishing good impressions at work or with girls.

The toughest watch in the world, Casio G-Shock, comes with precious inner components that control all its functions. Complete with technical precision and designed to absorb shock, this watch is for men who combine fun with adventure. Check out Time Depot's wristwatch collections located in Rockwell (Makati); Robinsons Place (Manila); Shangri-La Plaza Mall (Mandaluyong City); Festival Supermall (Alabang, Muntinlupa); Eastwood Citiwalk 2 (Libis, Quezon City); and SM branches in North Edsa Annex, Fairview and Pampanga. Other watch brands for men available at Time Depot include Alfex, Suunto, Calvin Klein and Casio.



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# Gov't OKs P8.15-B Transco line

COTABATO CITY—THE GOVERNMENT has recently approved the disbursement of some P8.15 billion in funds for the transmission line expansion program of the National Transmission Corp. (Transco), which would benefit indigenous people in Mindanao.

Jonathan Moderno, Transco management and maintenance division head, said the project provides for the expansion of Transco's lines covering lumad communities from General Santos to Tacurong City in Sultan Kudarat.

Alan Ortiz, Transco chief executive officer, said recently that the project, which is under the Mindanao Backbone Transmission Project, would cover about 660 circuit-kilometers of transmission lines.

Ortiz said the project will serve as a reliable electricity highway that would transmit increased power from the power generation plants in northern Mindanao to major electricity consumers across the island.

Ortiz said a steady and reliable power supply in Mindanao is very important, especially with the island's flourishing trade with its partners in the East Asean Growth Area.

Eaga groups the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei. *Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

# VAT from e-load, export overruns eyed

BAGUIO CITY—OFFICIALS OF THE BUreau of Internal Revenue have just realized that there's more gold to be taken from the neighborhood e-load (electronic mobile phone load credits) retailers.

Deputy BIR Commissioner Lucita Rodriguez said the government has started negotiating terms with the country's two largest telecommunications firms to enable the government to monitor revenues generated from electronically distributed telephone credits as it tries to plug leaks in the revised value-added tax system.

Rodriguez recently spoke to government workers in northern Luzon during the last leg of a nationwide RVAT information caravan.

She said the BIR had failed to unearth the revenues earned by e-load distributors or even from bank transactions conducted through the Internet.

Incentives that exempted industry giants Smart Communications Inc. and Globe Telecom from VAT have expired this year.

Meanwhile, Tereso Panga, manager of the Baguio City Economic Zone, told Rodriguez that there might also be potential tax revenues from materials imported through ports administered by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority, that find their way into the domestic market.

Lenny Sanedrin, an accountant of the National Food Authority in the Ilocos, also asked BIR to devise a new collection system to capture both VAT and non-VAT covered rice truckers that distribute NFA rice to the provinces.

She said this industry could also be the source of tax leakages.

"Finance Secretary Margarito Teves is putting in place a very strict and very precise monitoring of collections from RVAT. Every detail—how much do we get from petroleum dealers, how much do we get from oil monthly, there's going to be monitoring," said Albay Rep. Jose Salceda, chair of the House committee on appropriations. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

## *Agumil to invest P300M in palm oil plant*

**By Christine A. Gaylican**

PALM OIL PRODUCER AGUMIL PLANtations Inc. plans to expand its operations and build a new P300-million facility in Maguindanao.

According to a proposal submitted to the Land Bank of the Philippines, Agumil planned to build its new facility in the town of Buluan and was seeking financial backing from the bank.

Agumil has a facility in Agusan del Sur.

Agumil Philippines Inc. is a joint venture between Filipino and Malaysian investors, and is engaged in the processing of palm oil.

"Agumil is seeking a P200-million loan from the bank to build a similar facility in Maguindanao," said Land Bank first vice president and head of the Mindanao Branches Group Wilfredo C. Maldia in an interview with the INQUIRER.

The Agumil plantation in Trento, Agusan del Sur, has a capacity to manufacture 20 tons of palm oil.

The proposed plantation and facility in Maguindanao targets to cover 8, 000 hectares in Agusan and benefit 4,000 farmers.

Earlier, Agumil also availed of a P100-million production loan from the bank for its plant in Agusan.

Philippine vegetable oil millers and refiners are now keen on selling the cheaper palm olein oil for the domestic market, so that all coconut oil would be exported.

Coconut oil now commands a higher premium in the international market.

Since the middle of last year, cooking oil manufacturers have increased imports of the cheap palm olein oil by 90 percent.

Palm oil costs around P10 to P15 a kilo, industry players said in separate interviews yesterday.

"The use of the palm olein oil has gained inroads in the local market as household consumers and institutional buyers have preferred it because of the price difference compared with edible coconut oil," said San Miguel Corp.'s assistant vice president Greg Illesca.

Illesca noted in an interview that there was not much difference between the quality and taste of the two vegetable oils.

Illesca cited that institutional buyers, including fast-food giant Jollibee Foods Corp., have switched to palm olein oil for their business.

This development has actually alarmed some local edible oil producers who currently use 100-percent coconut oil as raw material.

The producer of the Minola Cooking oil, in particular, which is under the Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF) Group, may lose some sales as its products are priced higher than those products with part palm olein oil in its content.

For the long term, the said development will not totally displace the country's coconut oil production as the agricultural commodity would instead be directed for exports, said industry trader Raul V. Ostrea in another interview

Coconut oil is the country's oldest agricultural export.

"Coconut oil is now $30 cheaper than its direct substitute palm kernel oil and this has driven higher demand from foreign buyers," he said.

China, in particular, is seeking big volumes of coconut oil, which is used as raw material for the production of soaps, cosmetics and detergents, among others.

# Negros farmers desperately seeking buyers of peanuts

DUMAGUETE CITY—TONS OF PEANUTS have been harvested in Oriental Negros but farmers have been unable to sell them.

Provincial agriculturist Gregorio Paltinca said the farmers in the province have yet to find a buyer for some 100,000 tons of peanuts harvested over the last few weeks.

Paltinca said the provincial government bought from the farmers some 10,000 tons at P20 a kilo of dried and unshelled peanuts to protect them from private traders who offered then to buy the peanuts at only P14 a kilo.

Paltinca said the provincial government was even looking at buying the peanut at a higher price to help the farmers while it helps them look for markets.

Paltinca said the provincial agriculture office had found a buyer in Tagbiliran City in Bohol.

But the buyer, who is engaged in the production of peanut kisses, (peanut brittle), a Bohol delicacy, only needed a ton of dry and shelled peanuts.

Paltinca said the businessman bought the shelled peanuts at P45 a kilo.

Oriental Negros' peanut supply soared when the provincial government initiated a program to increase peanut production in July 2005.

Paltinca said the provincial government had allocated P1 million for the seeds and fertilizers that were available to the farmers through the plant-now-pay-later scheme. *Romy G. Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

**Acer's Dual Core Laptops at the 37th BPI Installment Madness**

For today's increasingly changing mobile Filipino lifestyle, owning a notebook PC that's both fast and powerful enough to allow multi-tasking while showing crisp, quality images and audio-video streaming could very well be worth an arm and a leg. Not anymore!

**Acer**, the first brand worldwide and in the Philippines to introduce its newest laptops powered by the all-new **Intel® Centrino® Duo Mobile Technology** has now invaded the one of the biggest installment madness event in the country --- the **BPI Real 0% No Sweat Installment Madness.**

High quality and dependable **Acer Aspire** and **TravelMate dual core laptops** are being sold at the following suggested retail price: **Aspire 5562WXMi - P89,900 (P7,491.67/mo.); Aspire 5542WLMi - P79,900 (P6,658.33/mo.); TravelMate 8204WLMi - P159,900 (P13,325/mo.); TravelMate 3012WTMi - P109,900 (P9,158.33/mo); TravelMate 3282WXMi - P89,900 (P7,491.67/mo.); TravelMate 3242WXMi - P79,900 (P6,658.33/mo.)** --- available at 0% interest installment purchase for 12 months.

As one of the world's leading computer brand, Acer empowers more Filipinos to **do more** and **be more** with their laptops. Coupled with its dual core processors, Acer's latest laptop offerings are seen to pave the way for ultra-fast processing, enhanced multi-tasking, extended connectivity, and power-saving features that prolong battery life. This way, users are empowered to communicate anytime, anywhere!

One important benefit of Acer's latest line of laptops is product availability to offer complete voice and video communication solutions. Now featuring extended connectivity options, these notebook PCs also target a broad range of user needs -- from top-of-line performance models with 15.4-inch wide screens that can effectively serve as desktop PCs, to 14.1-inch display lightweight models for corridor warriors, and 12.1-inch ultra portable models for road warriors.

A number of these laptop models also feature **Acer Video Conference,** a complete solution comprised of **Acer OrbiCam** and **Acer Bluetooth® VoIP phone.** The **Acer Orbicam** is an integrated camera with 1.3 mega pixel high-resolution CMOS and 225° ergonomic rotation, so users can capture visuals on both sides of the display without adjusting the LCD.

**Acer's Bluetooth® VoIP phone**, on the other hand, enables hands-free communication and additional interaction points for multiple-users, while its Acer Video Conference provides a complete voice and video communication solution that is both intuitive and cost-effective.

What's more, every purchase of **Aspire 5562WXMi** and **TravelMate 3282WXMi** comes with a specially-priced **PLDT WeRoam Aircard** at **P9,999** to fully enjoy the wireless capabilities of the Acer dual core laptops for unlimited wireless internet access for three (3) months. This package also provides reloading options for additional WeRoam credits via SMART money at the end of the subscription period.

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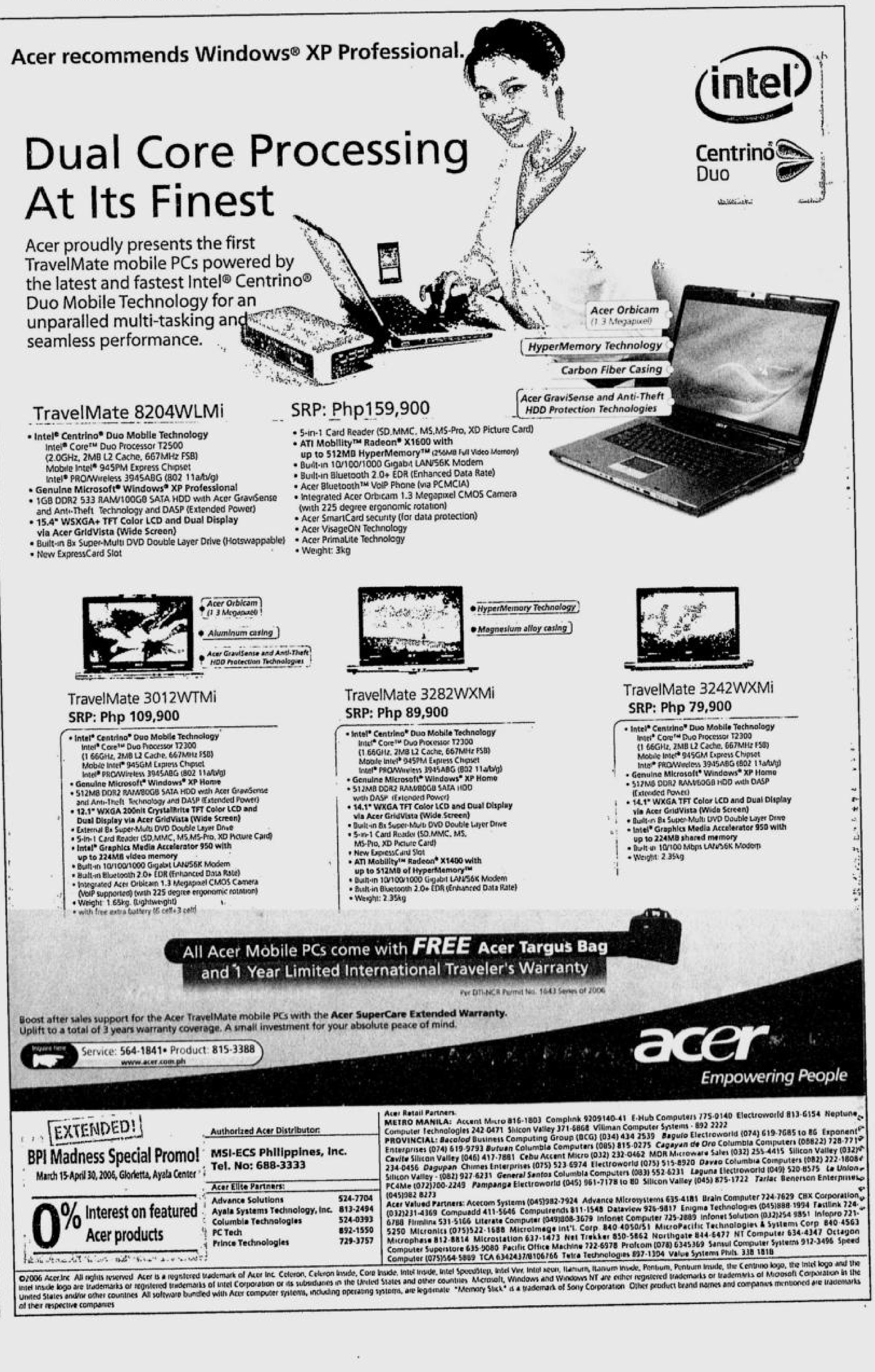

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# Ecozones' earnings down 10% in 2005

## Peza remits ₱911M to national treasury

**By Ronnel W. Domingo**

ECONOMIC ZONE EARNINGS REMITTED to the national treasury reached about P911 million in 2005, or some 10 percent lower than the P1 billion turned over the previous year.

According to the Philippine Economic Zone Authority, the amount accounted for payment of loans, dividends and income taxes collected from various ecozones nationwide.

There are 81 operating ecozones in the country, including the four public ecozones, privately-run special ecozones and information technology parks and buildings.

Peza Director General Lilia de Lima announced the figures yesterday during recognition rites for outstanding investors held at the Hotel Philippine Plaza.

However, the Peza official was not able to say why remittances decreased last year.

Yesterday's awardees included best earning exporters Panasonic Communications Philippines Corp., Philips Semiconductors Philippines Inc., Rohm Electronics Philippines Inc., and Samsung Electronics Philippines Manufacturing Corp.

Total ecozone exports for 2005 reached $32 billion or an increase of 3.6 percent from $30.9 billion in 2004.

Export growth in terms of value showed a slowdown from an average of 16.6 percent from 2002 to 2004.

Still, locator investments showed significant improvement with a 32.8-percent increase to P67.2 billion last year from the P50.6 billion of the previous year.

Also, the number of jobs in ecozones reached 1.1 million in 2005, 9.3 percent more than the 1.02 million jobs reported in 2004.

Cited as outstanding employers were Clientlogic Philippines, Convergys Philippines Services Corp., Dole Philippines Inc., Epson Precision (Philippines) Inc., Lear Automotive Services, Lexmark International (Philippines) Inc., Lufthansa Technik Philippines Inc., Nidec Precision Philippines Corp., Philips Semiconductors and Toshiba Information Equipment (Philippines) Inc.

Earlier, De Lima said Peza approved the registration of 11 projects worth some P307 million in the first 10 days of the year.

She said the projects included two for developers and nine that were mostly related to information technology-based services and manufacturing of products for export.

The biggest of the projects is that of economic zone developer Jovima Management and Development, which involves the operation and maintenance of a P115.2-million seven-story building and another P79.7-million four-story building.

Also awarded for Outstanding Community Projects were CS Garments Inc., Amkor Technology Philippines Inc., Dole Philippines Inc., Ford Motors Co. Philippines Inc., Philippine Associated Smelting and Refining Corp., Philips Semiconductor, Samsung Electronics, Toshiba Information Equipment and TMX Philippines Inc.

Lauded for their outstanding environmental performance were Fairchild Semiconductor Philippines Inc., Ford Motor Co., Taiyo Yuden Philippines Inc., TI (Philippines) Inc. and Toshiba Information Equipment.

Yesterday's awards ceremony was the eleventh event organized by the Philippine Ecozones Association.

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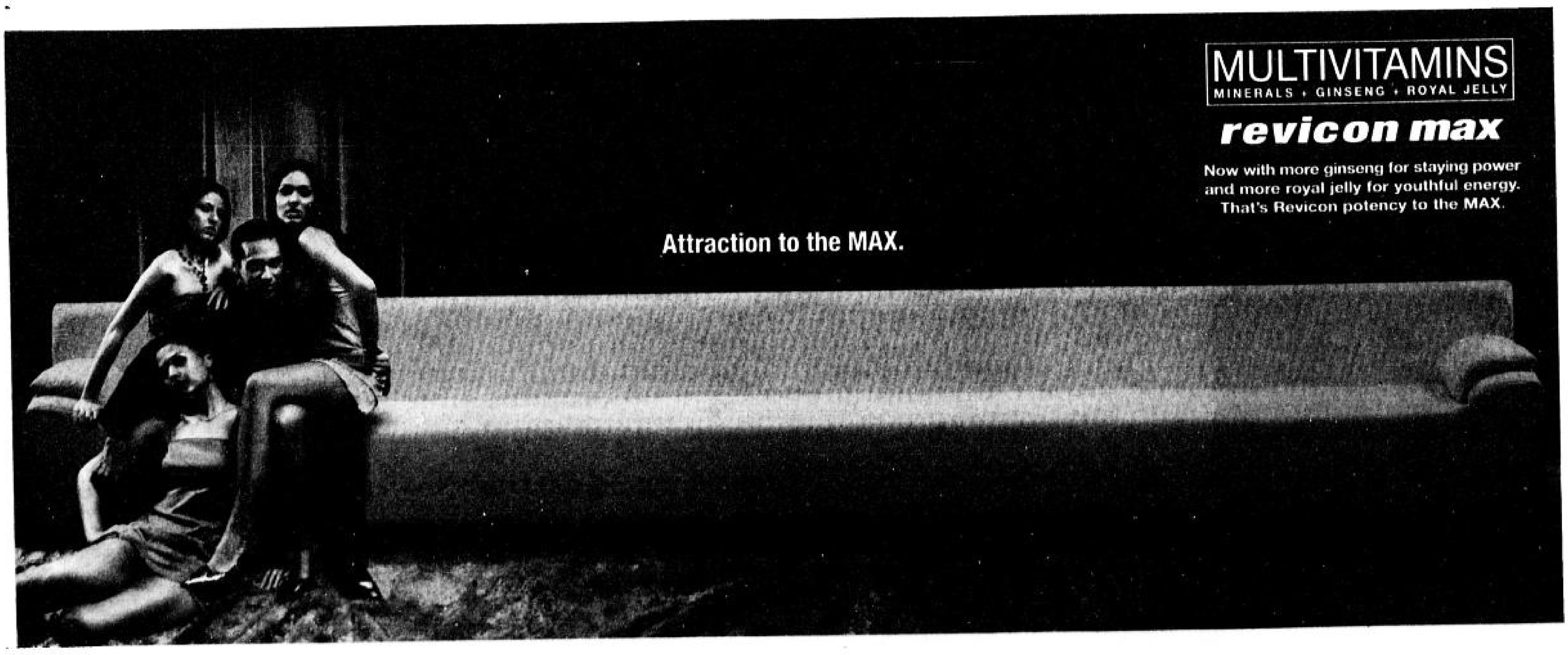

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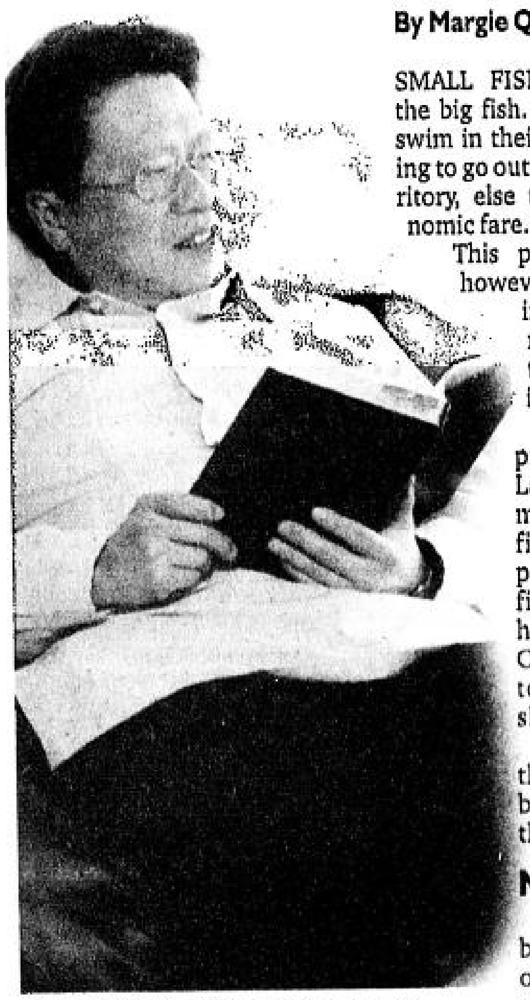
Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

# Small fish goes after big fishes

## First RP toothpaste maker meets multinationals head on



CECILIO Pedro, founder of Lamoiyan Corp.

**By Margie Quimpo-Espino**

SMALL FISH USUALLY AVOID the big fish. They are content to swim in their own pool, not daring to go out into the big fish's territory, else they end up gastronomic fare.

This particular little fish, however, dared to venture into the big fish's territory with the thought of even dominating the pool.

Cecilio K. Pedro, president and CEO of Lamoiyan Corp., maker of Hapee, the first Filipino toothpaste, is this kind of fish as he competes head on with giants Colgate and CloseUp to get a bigger market share.

He believes that little fish can maneuver better and move faster than big fish.

### More flexible

"We are more flexible compared to the big ones who can't just come out with new products as these have to be approved by the head office," says Pedro.

By new products, Pedro refers to new flavors that put a new twist to toothpaste.

For those who still think that toothpaste only comes in the classic mint flavor in white or red gel, the market is abound with unthinkable toothpaste flavors such as chocolate, cookies and cream, strawberry, watermelon, peach, orange, bubble gum. Name it and toothpaste companies are making it.

To compete head on with the top two players, Lamoiyan, which means Irene Lim, the name of his grandmother in Chinese, divided the market into segments.

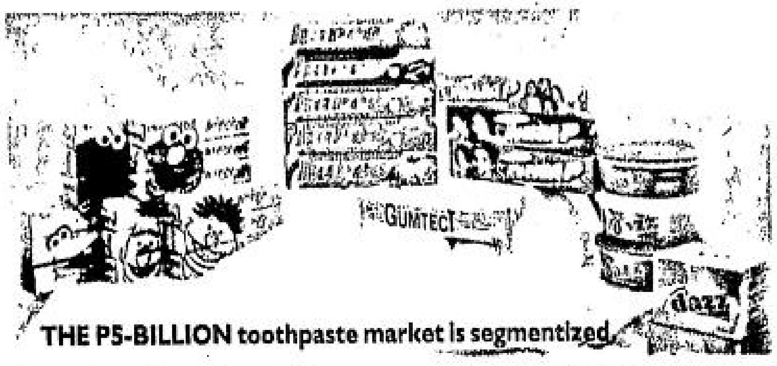
These are kids, from three to nine; 'tweens from 10 to 14; teenagers from 15 to 19; classic Hapee users from 20 to 35; and Gumtect users, 35 and above.

Gumtect is one of the new products of Hapee—a special formulation toothpaste aimed at keeping gums healthy.

### Professionalizing

Aside from segmenting the market, Pedro went on to professionalize his ranks.

He used to do everything, which was typical of entrepreneurs. But lately, he has learned to hire others to do major tasks.



**THE P5-BILLION toothpaste market is segmentized**

He got Ding Salvador, former Asean head of Johnson & Johnson, as a marketing consultant. Earlier, Pedro tapped the expertise of Elmer Buntag, who used to be in charge of the Research and Development of Unilever and was responsible for some of the formulation of CloseUp.

Buntag has since passed away but was able to draw up new formulations for Hapee.

Pedro knows he is facing an uphill battle against the big fish in his market. But he is used to overcoming adversity.

### Early start

He set up Lamoiyan on Feb. 14, 1987, almost two years after he closed his first company, Aluminum Container Inc., which supplied the aluminum tubes for toothpaste makers.

His people lost their jobs and he lost 10 years of hard work just because of the decision of multinational firms Philippine Refining Co. (now Unilever, makers of CloseUp) and Colgate-Palmolive to shift from aluminum to laminated plastic tubes.

With 90 percent of their business on toothpaste, and with lots of aluminum tubes left on his hands, Pedro had no choice but to close shop.

Pedro also knew that the only way to make use of the tubes and to re-employ his people was to make his own toothpaste. So he created Lamoiyan and used the brand name Hapee.

"Just a variant to the spelling of happy," he says.

Guerilla tactics such as sponsoring the 1988 Philippine Olympic Team created awareness of the product and a TV ad that featured then a young actress Ruffa Gutierrez made Hapee into a household name.

The fact that Hapee toothpaste's price cost half that of the top two brands made it the third largest selling brand.

During the 1997 Asian crisis, Lamoiyan's finances were also affected. But in the next few years, Pedro cleaned up liabilities and paid off all debts.

For the past 20 years, Hapee toothpaste was content with being the number three player in the P5 billion to P7 billion toothpaste market in the Philippines.

But Lamoiyan's vision has since changed. He now has three goals—compete head on with the big players; look at the export market; and go for a possible public offering.

Pedro's Christian faith keeps him going. One unique thing about Lamoiyan is that it employs deaf-mute individuals.

He grew up in a family where the prevailing sense was "nowhere else to go but in business." At least for the men. And since he was the only boy among six children, he was the one who went into business.

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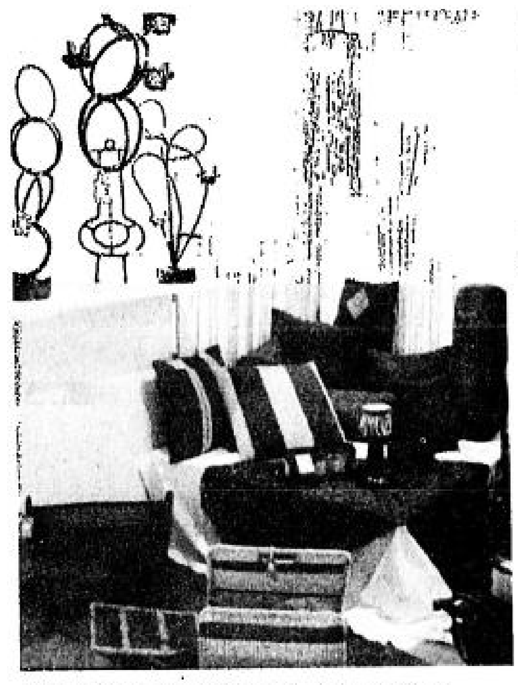

**ITEMS from coco beads by Adolph Coco Beads**

ROGER CARPIO

# *More than just money-making schemes*

**By Patricia de Leon**

BEHIND FOUR OF THE PARTICIPATING EXhibitors in the 2006 National Trade Fair are stories that tell of more than just business ventures and money-making schemes.

Organized by the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem), Small and Medium Development Group, the Department of Trade and Industry, and other government agencies, the trade fair brings to

MORE/ B2

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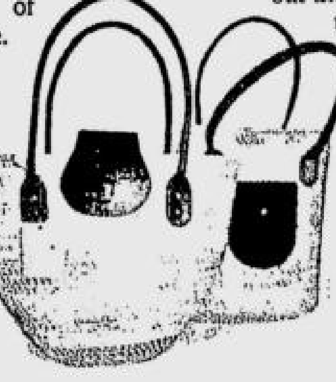
# More than just . . .

From page B2-1

public awareness the products unique to 16 regions.

But more than being an expo of bags, fabrics, accessories, furniture and food, the 2006 National Trade Fair held last March 15-19 at the SM Megamall Megatrade Halls showcased stories of people helping people.



BAGS by RS Mfg. Phils.

## Tinabuan

How many shop owners can boast of winning for their town a P2-million farm-to-market road grant from their provincial government? Not many, but Esmerna Gabutina can.

The proprietor of Tinabuan, an enterprise that specializes in products woven from abaca, romblon and tikog fibers, proudly tells the story of how her products brought fame, and even economic improvement, to her town.

"The provincial government hosted a trade fair and the prize for best booth was P2 million for a farm-to-market road. Our town's booth won and it was designed with only our products."

"Tinabuan" is the Bisaya word for "pasalubong," with no exact English translation but which means a gift to people from someone who went away.

Representing Misamis Oriental of the Northern Mindanao region in the 2006 National Trade Fair, and hailing from the Lagonlong town which holds weaving as one of its established industries, Tinabuan prides itself in being the only company that practices "mixed weaving."

"All others weave abaca only, or cotton only … we use many different fibers and weave them together to make our designs," says Gabutina. This technique came to them only last year when the Department of Trade and Industry linked them up with Libby Hoffman of the Canadian Expert Services Organization. Since then, their pillow covers, place mats, table runners and room dividers have stood out even more from among other abaca products. And with the increasing success that Tinabuan is facing, (some of their products were sold out during the first day of the fair) Gabutina plans to help even more people from her town.

## Adolph's Coco Beads

Everybody knows that the coconut is the tree of life because almost every part has a use.

The dried coconut kernel, copra, is what Adolph's Coco Beads turns into pillow covers, rugs, and even bags. Although making these products out of coconut is not exactly a novel idea, Amelita Cagorol, the company's marketing manager, is adamant that they are the only company that has the patience to turn copra into small beads and string the beads together with nylon cords, into bags, rugs and other household items.

Cagorol admits that the coco bead idea came from Cebu. But being an innovator, she saw the Cebuano industries' practice of using coco beads only for fashion accessories as a waste. She came up with the idea of turning the beads into much more useful items. She took this idea, and the bead making technology, back home to Butuan.

Almost a decade into her coco bead business Cagorol has been able to supply her products to gift shops and furniture stores throughout the country. Her products have also been bought for export. In the process she has also helped countless barangays in Butuan, where she gets weavers from among women who would otherwise be idle. She trains them personally and gives them work whenever orders come in.

And orders have been coming in steadily, she says. So much so that just to meet quota and beat deadlines, husbands who were once doubtful of their wives' sideline, now help in bead stringing and weaving.

## Maunlad Coco Coir

Coir, the fiber from coconut husks, is another by-product that has found many uses. Maunlad Coco Coir, a cooperative based in Hernani, Eastern Samar, processes coconut fiber into semi-finished products like dyed rubberized liner sheets, garden products and handicrafts. Products from coconut fiber are durable but still biodegradable, which make them practical and environment-friendly at the same time.

The cooperative, which started in 1987 as an agrarian reform beneficiary, takes advantage of the by-products of an LGU-operated oil mill. It was in 2003 when they ventured into the coco coir handicraft business by partnering with the German Development Cooperation. Their rural area, once deprived of basic infrastructure, now has a new road network and cell sites which make it easier to do business.

They have 72 workers, mostly women, who make pots, lamps, bags, baskets and other products from the coconut fiber. Maunlad joined the trade fair looking for partner exporters, and they have caught the eye of traders from Taiwan and Mainland China.

Because of these new opportunities, Anacleto Bantang, Maunlad's plant manager, says their membership is steadily growing. Bantang is also proud that the cooperative has helped women make better use of their time. Instead of gossiping with each other, their members now work to add a little more income to what their husbands take home.

PLACEMAT sets from Tinabuan.

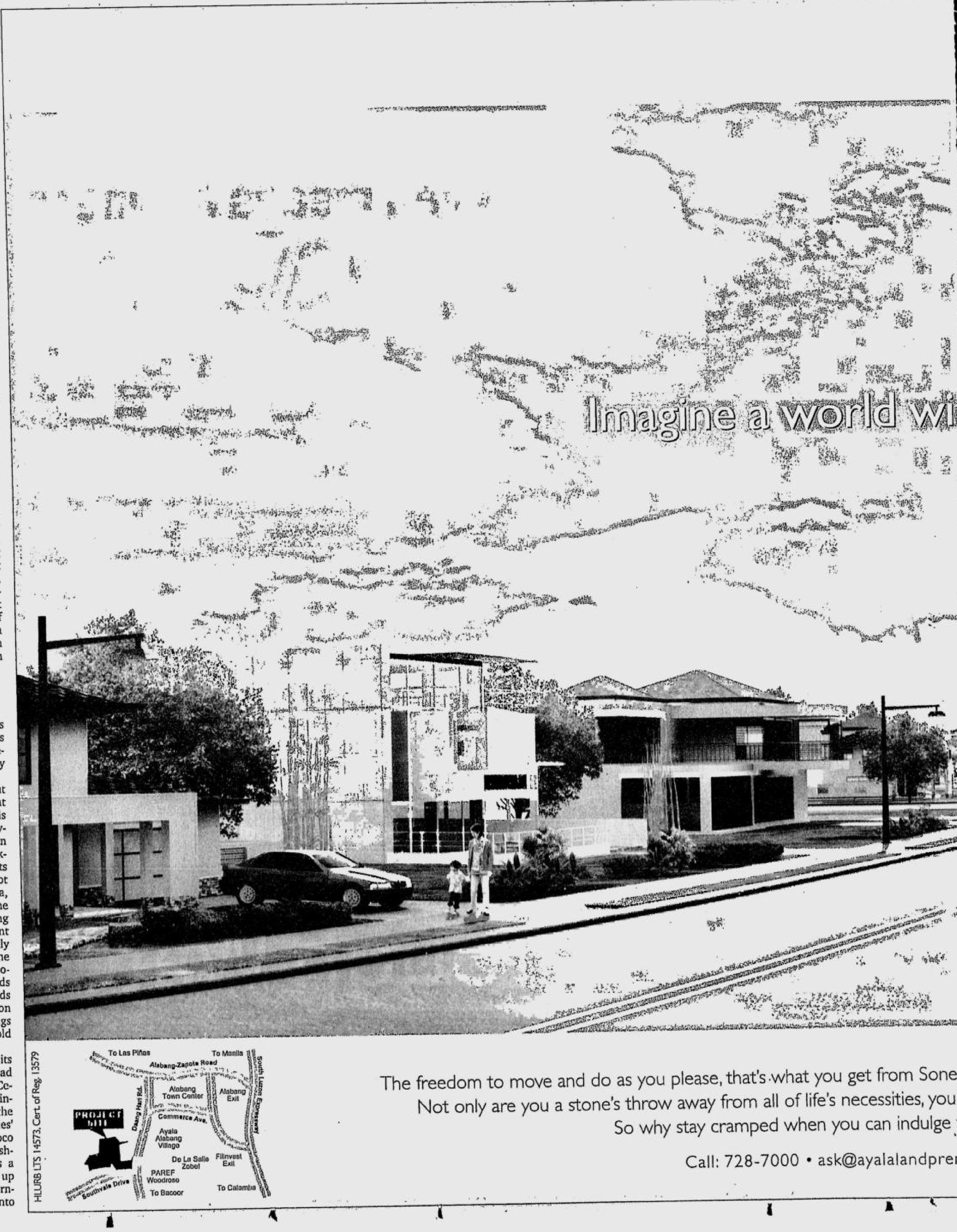
## RS Mfg. Phils.

RS Mfg. Phils., a maker of structured bags based in Taytay, Rizal, started out selling corporate gifts. They were successful from the very start, landing institutional clients like San Miguel Corp. and Philippine Airlines. Cristina Sy, one of RS Mfg. Phils.' owners, attributes this success to their unique look and use of indigenous materials like abaca and rattan on common office items like desk calendars and planners.

They carried over the use of abaca and rattan when they switched focus to bag making. Their structured bags appeal to the high-end market and Sy is looking forward to tapping this niche. They plan to establish and sell under a brand, and also to venture into exporting.

Sy debunks the idea that business owners do not care about the welfare of their workers. A member of Advocates of Philippine Fair Trade Inc., RS Mfg. Phils. is also looking for ways to make sure its workers' needs are covered despite bag manufacturing's heavy dependence on seasonal orders.

Their focus on the high-end market, and their advocacy and practice of fair trade ideals make for an ironic combination. But the irony does not end there. While it aims to sell to the rich, RS Mfg. Phils. employs indigenous people as bag weavers. Their rattan bags are made by the Dumagats of Tanay, while their colorful abaca bags are woven by T'bolis of Bukidnon. This company has helped revive weaving.



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# Blade maker cashes in on sword-and-sandal flicks

## Orders from abroad swamp small smithy in Pangasinan

**By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes**
*PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

POZORRUBIO, PANGASINAN—Felomeno de Guzman, 57, is happy whenever movies featuring medieval swords are being shown worldwide.

It is not because he is a *cineaste* but movies like these mean increasing orders for the swords he manufactures in his backyard factory here.

De Guzman owns and manages J.J.J. Vaciacraft, which makes and exports swords, knives, bolos and all kinds of bladed wares.

The 1995 blockbuster "Braveheart" starring Hollywood actor Mel Gibson increased the sales of his "Braveheart" swords.

When the Russell Crowe starrer "Gladiator" was shown in 2000, orders for his sword called "Gladius" zoomed.

"We don't exactly copy the designs [of swords used] in the movies. We alter or improve on the designs a little," De Guzman says.

"I am very thankful that there are people around the world who are interested in medieval swords, such as collectors and martial artists. Without them, we will have no business and income, especially because I only finished high school," De Guzman says.

His shop has produced swords similar to the ones used in the movies "King Arthur" (2004) and "Joan of Arc" (1999). Swords similar to those used in the "Beastmaster" television series also came from his shop.

The most expensive and the most sought after swords crafted by De Guzman are the "katana," which people usually call "Samurai." They cost P7,500 each but many sword collectors still want one in their collections.

The cheapest among his products, at P3,500, is the "Gladius."

De Guzman says his shop churns out an average of 200 swords of various designs in a month. An American businessman buys all his swords and sells these to enthusiasts in the United States and Europe.

De Guzman, his brother Fernando and his brother-in-law Eddie Eleria started making swords in 1980. They sold their products at the former Clark Air Base in Pampanga and some American soldiers who noticed their products gave them samples of other swords to imitate.

De Guzman says they were "challenged" to improve on the designs and reproduce them.

The three have since parted as business partners but De Guzman pursued the business and penetrated the foreign market.

But it was a long climb up, he says.

His break came in the 1980s when he joined Pistang Pilipino, a trade fair that showcased Philippine handicrafts, in Ermita, Manila.

There he met foreigners who got interested in his products. Later, he forged a deal with an American businessman who now buys all his products.

De Guzman's relationship with the American buyer was so close that he refused to deal with other businessmen anymore. The American also funded the production in cases that orders were really big.

De Guzman says government agencies like the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Science and Technology helped him improve his products.

**FELOMENO de Guzman** holds a replica of the sword used in the movie, "The Beastmaster."

**MOVIES** like "The Gladiator" jack up sales of the swords.

**A WORKER** polishes a holster amid the finished products.

PHOTOS BY RAY B. ZAMBRANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

## Is ...

From page B2-4

is not so much the decline of the volume of advertising, but the decline of the influence of advertising people over marketing strategy. In other words, it's a loss of importance that concerns many advertising agencies, not a loss of advertising volume.

In the future, public relations people will have the primary role in developing a brand's marketing strategy, not advertising managers or advertising agencies. A new brand has to have good public relations or it's not going to be successful.

Q: How could you explain the success of brands such as Coca-Cola, Ford and GM, which built and positioned their brands with investments in advertising and remain leaders?

**Al Ries:** Coca-Cola, Ford and GM brands (Chevrolet, Pontiac, Oldsmobile, Buick and Cadillac) were built in the distant past by public relations, not advertising.

Take Ford, for example. When Henry Ford built the first production line and manufactured and sold an automobile (the Model T) for an incredibly low price, it created an enormous amount of publicity. Then he paid his workers the astounding sum, for the time, of $5. As a result, Henry Ford and the Ford Model T were probably as famous in their day as Bill Gates and Microsoft are today.

Today, of course, all of these brands need advertising to maintain the brands. But the brands themselves were built by PR, not advertising. What Ford did in his time, Bill Gates has done today. The Microsoft brand was built by PR, in our opinion, not advertising. As a matter of fact, Microsoft received more publicity last year than any company in the world.

Al Ries will be in Manila on June 23 to do a one-day brand marketing conference. *Send question to Al Ries at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412.*

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AYALA SOUTHVALE VILLAGE SONERA

# Philam Plans – Earning people's trust, fulfilling Filipino dreams

By Joel Nigos

"AS A RESPONSIBLE parent, I wanted my children to have a bright future. Securing their future means providing for their education. That entails saving up for them and I did that through an educational plan." Thus shares Pablo Dimal, proud father of last year's board top notcher for Geodetic Engineering, Mathew Oliver Ralph who breezed through college with the education plan Pablo got him when he was seven.

Pablo is just one of those who believe in the importance of education and has turned to pre-need to reach this most coveted aspiration.

Amidst the higher cost of living nowadays, Filipinos have become financially wiser and more conscious and cautious of their everyday expenditures — adjusting and adopting to a new lifestyle of saving. A lifestyle Juliet Villamor and her husband had taken when they purchased pre-need products as a means of saving for their future needs. "*Napakalaking tulong ng pre-need sa amin* (Pre-need has been a great help to us)," Juliet enthuses. Several years earlier, they bought an education plan for their child and after seeing the benefits it has brought them, decided to buy a pension plan for a secured retirement.

"I WANTED my children to have a bright future... that entails saving up for them and I did it through an education plan." Philam Plans planholder Pablo Dimal receives the scholastic achievement award cash benefit with his son, Mathew Oliver Ralph who topped the recent Geodetic Engineer Examination. Awarding the cash benefit are Wendy Sta. Maria, Claims Sr. Manager (left) and Rita Peralta, Plan Administration SAVP.

## Saving up for future needs

Often, we create budgets and program our finances based on our current and short term needs. But what about the inevitable occurrences in the future – college education for the children, healthcare and emergency fund for the family or even our own retirement?

The secret to financial security is simple – plan ahead. There's no better time to plan for your future but now. The realization of your dreams for the future lies on two things: your current lifestyle and financial management. Wise savings means having money to be used for current needs and allocating a percentage of your income for future financial needs. Having a solid long-term financial plan ensures a fulfilled and worry-free life for you and your family in the future.

Over the years one company has stood out in providing comprehensive and innovative financial planning products to the Filipino market, Philam Plans. Philam Plans is the country's most trusted pre-need company and has been the undisputed pension provider in the past 6 years and the leading education plan provider for two years.

The diverse products of Philam Plans that range from an affordable education plan, Pangako, to a medical care plan, Protect and the premium product that builds up ones' inheritance for his family, Inheritage Fund, have defined Philam Plans' success. The ability of Philam Plans' products to respond to the unique and relevant needs of every Filipino has made it a credible and prestigious company to invest and save money in amongst the market.

> ***"Understanding the basics of financial planning and saving are critical in ensuring a peaceful and worry-free life."***

## Serving Philam Plans' Mission

In planning for the future, it is necessary to find an expert financial planner and a friend you can trust, like the Philam Plans sales associate. Serving Philam Plans' mission are its loyal and dedicated salesforce who look at their work not just as jobs but as a means to help Filipino families.

Eric Bautista, District Manager of Philam Plans, shares how his career move changed his life and gave him a chance to make a difference, *"Naramdaman ko yung tuwa nila dahil para sa kanila naging maayos ang buhay nila ngayon dahil sa plano na kinuha nila"* (I felt their gladness, their lives are now better because of the plans they bought).

Understanding the basics of financial planning and saving are critical in ensuring a peaceful and worry-free life. Philam Plans top agency manager Carol Bautista explains, "There are various things that motivate people, they have also different needs." And more Filipinos turn to Philam Plans, today's leading pre-need firm, for financial advice and savings instruments.

The confidence in the company was not earned overnight. All of its 17 years has been dedicated to place Philam Plans planholders on top priority.

> ***"More than sales leadership, helping people plan or secure their future is our most important concern."***

## More than being on top

Philam Plans President and CEO Jesus G. Hofileña says, "More than sales leadership, helping people plan or secure their future is our most important concern." This is also why the company has taken concrete steps in order to fulfill that commitment to all its planholders.

The company's trust fund level has now reached close to P20 billion growing by more than 40% for the past two years. More than 90% of this is invested in highly liquid investments such as government securities and other cash equivalents. At this present level of liquidity, Philam Plans can readily pay all maturing and availing pre-need plans this year, all the way to 2013. As its trust funds continue to grow, it will assuredly serve the general public for decades.

Another clear manifestation of the company's strong commitment to its planholders is the increased stake it recently put in the industry via an additional infusion of P500 million, increasing its paid-up capital to P700 million. Philam Plans' current capitalization is now seven times the minimum paid-up capital required by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for a pre-need company.

PHILAM Plans President and CEO Jesus G. Hofileña, together with SVP and Chief Financial Officer Amelita M. Intalan and SVP for Plan Operations Group Reynaldo T. Gatcheco, Jr., proudly announced Philam Plans' close to P20 Million trust fund in a recent press briefing, making it the industry's largest, to date. The company's trust fund had increased by 40% in the past 2 years.

There is nothing to doubt with Philam Plans. As a member of the American International Group (AIG), the company is among the first to comply with the regulator's new provisions and has never sought any regulatory leeway from the SEC despite stiffer reserving requirements. The company was also the first to have been awarded the prestigious ISO 2000 certification, proof of the high quality business standards it has maintained in its operations.

A subsidiary of the country's leading insurance company and the most trusted name in life insurance, Philamlife, Philam Plans has consistently topped market surveys emerging as the No.1 pre-need company in the last four years. It is also a part of the US-based American International Group (AIG), the world's leading insurance and financial services organization. ***With Grace Del Rosario***

*For comments and inquiries please email philamplans@aig.com*

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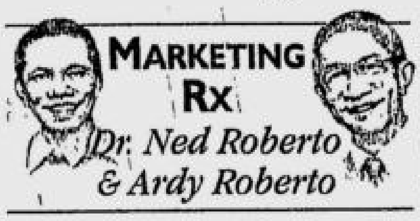
# 'Is advertising an effective tool for consulting firms?'



**MARKETING Rx**
*Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto*

HERE'S MORE brand and marketing advice from our guest columnist, best-selling marketing author and brand strategist, Al Ries.

**Q: In reading the 22 Immutable Laws of Marketing and the 22 Immutable Laws of Branding, I often have trouble seeing how the laws in either publication could not have been stated in the other. What is the difference?**

**Al Ries:** Obviously marketing and branding are related. We define marketing as those activities undertaken by a company to maintain or increase sales. Public relations, advertising, sales promotion, direct marketing, etc.

We define branding as the objective of a marketing program. In other words, the brand is not something that exists inside a company. It only exists inside the mind of the prospect. It's the job of marketing (and its various tools) to establish the brand in the mind of the consumer.

The difference between the two books is that the marketing book looks at the problem from the company's point of view. And the branding book looks at the problem from the consumer's point of view.

Q: Who is the owner of a brand? Consumers or companies?

**Al Ries:** Companies own trademarks which are registered in various countries around the world, but they don't "own" their brands. Their brands are owned by consumers because a brand is only something that exists inside the mind of the consumer.

Q : All the research I've seen says companies that maintain or even increase their advertising during a recession can increase market share and keep it for years to come. What is your take on that? Do you agree?

**Al Ries:** A better measure of an effective advertising program in any economy is not the volume of advertising, but a comparison of how much money you spend versus your competition. It's always dangerous to under spend your chief competitor. That way your message gets lost. Either spend enough so that you have the loudest voice in the category or don't spend anything at all. Another approach is to narrow your focus to a smaller target where you can outspend your competition.

Q: Many business consulting firms use advertising to build their brand. Is advertising an effective tool for this? If not, what other branding strategies should consultants consider?

**Al Ries:** It can be, but not unless it says something that "positions" the firm. PR is generally a more effective branding strategy to establish a position in the mind. After that position is established, then you can switch to advertising to maintain the position.

Safety advertising is effective for Volvo because everybody perceives Volvo to be the safe car. Advertising doesn't have the credibility to put a new idea into the mind. If your advertising says that you are a "terrific consulting firm," who is going to believe it? Everybody says that.

Q: What are the keys to success in using public relations to build a brand?

**Al Ries:** Here are at least three keys:

You need an idea to start with. You need a unique position that you can use to try to get into a prospect's mind. You might, for example, pick out a segment of the market that you are the leader in and then position yourself as the leader in that category.

If you are not the leader in any category, you can try to establish yourself as the "alternative," or the No. 2 brand in the category. As Pepsi-Cola is to Coca-Cola. How do you do that? You ask yourself "what is the leader's position?" and then you become the opposite. Coca-Cola is "the real thing." It's the original cola, as a result of its introduction more than a hundred years ago. So Pepsi became the opposite with its strategy to go after teenagers. "The Pepsi Generation."

You need a spokesperson. The best spokesperson is almost always the chief executive. We recommend that the chief executive of any major corporation spend at least half of more of his or her time on outside public relations activities.

Q: In your book there are many projections that indicate the fall of the importance and efficiency of advertising. Statements include: "In the future, we can expect anguish screams from the advertising sector, because marketing has entered the public relations era." What does it mean?

**Al Ries:** What we are predicting

IS ADVERTISING/ B2-3

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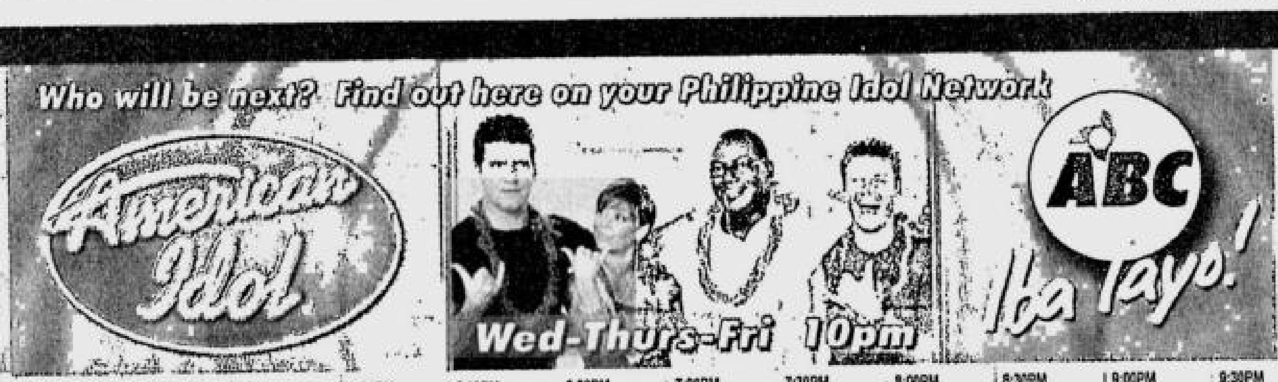
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

## TV GUIDE

Friday March 31, 2006



Who will be next? Find out here on your Philippine Idol Network
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| Channel | 2:30PM | 3:00PM | 3:30PM | 4:00PM | 4:30PM | 5:00PM | 5:30PM | 6:00PM | 6:30PM | 7:00PM | 7:30PM | 8:00PM | 8:30PM | 9:00PM | 9:30PM | 10:00PM | 10:30PM | 11:00PM | 11:30PM |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ABC 5 | | | WNCAA (Rerun) | | PBA | | | | Sentro | PBA | | | | | Big News | Something About Miriam | | Real Stories | |
| ABS-CBN 2 | Kapamilya Cinema | | | Pasion de Amor | Little Amy | Mr. Bean | Naruto | Outstanding Twins | TV Patrol World | | Gulong Ng Palad | Sa Piling Mo | Princess Lulu | Pinoy Big Brother | | Gudtaym | | | Insider |
| AXN | | The Contender Rematch Mora Vs. Manfredo | | | | | Boarding Pass | Cold Squad | | Amazon | | Gamemax (Season II) | E Buzz | Enough | | | | | The Replacement Killers |
| Cartoon Network | Johnny Bravo | Dexter's Laboratory | Tom & Jerry Show | | Baby Looney Tunes | Codename: Kids Next Door | Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends | The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy | Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles | Power Rangers Wild Force | The Gransazers | Yu-Gi-Oh Double Duel | | Powerpuff Girls | | Mucha Lucha! | Duck Dodgers | Justice League | Samurai Jack |
| Cinema One | | Miss Philippines | | | | Noon At Ngayon | | | | Double Vision | | | | Palaban | | | | Anak Dalita | |
| Cinemax | | Nowhere To Run | | | Fever | | | Ghost | | | | Devil Winds | | | Dead Birds | | | Intolerable Cruelty | |
| CNN | | | | Business International | | World News | World Sport | Larry King Live | | Business International | | World News Asia | | World News | World Sport | World News Asia | | World News | World Sport |
| Crime/Suspense | | Surface | | Law & Order Special Victims Unit | | Profiler | | Forensic Files | Hollywood Justice | Law & Order | | Law & Order Special Victims Unit | | Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice | | Law & Order: Criminal Intent | | Crossing Jordan | |
| Discovery Channel | | Extreme Engineering | | Rivals | | Beyond Tomorrow | | More Than Human | | Rides | | American Chopper | | Beyond Tomorrow | | Mostly True Stories | | Crime Night | |
| Disney Channel | Mr. Bean The Animated Series | Totally Spies | Art Attack/Un-lakative Bunny | Mickey Mouse and Friends | Lilo & Stitch | Martin Mystery | Totally Spies | Kim Possible | Mr. Bean The Animated Series | That's So Raven | Wonderful World Of Disney | | | Brandy & Mr Whiskers | | Mickey Mouse and Friends | Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers | Wonderful World Of Disney | |
| ESPN | | Skating Marshall's World Skating Chall | | | World Snooker Tour Triple Perkins Finals | | | | | | Sportscenter Asia | Motorsport Asia | Classic Boxing: J. Louis - The Young Champion | | Nat'l League C'ship Series '05 | | | | |
| ETC | | Project Runway | | Change of Heart | Elimidate | Blind Date | Fifth Wheel | Seinfeld | Ambush Makeover | The Tyra Banks Show | | Joan Of Arcadia | | American Dreams 2 | | Entertainment Tonight | The Insider | The Tonight Show With Jay Leno | |
| EWTN | The Word Was Made Flesh | Angelus (3:15 PM) | The Donut Man | Angel Force | Suffering And The Love Of God | Rosary With Mother Angelica | Stations Of The Cross | EWTN Gallery | Super Saints | Life on The Rock Encore | | Mariano Works In China | Defending Life | Daily Mass (SAP) Live | | Angelus (10:15PM) | Holy Spirit In The Church | Father Corapi And The Catechism Of Catholic Church | |
| Fox News | | Hannity & Colmes | | On The Record With Greta Van Susteren | | The O'Reilly Factor | | Your World With Neil Cavuto | | Fox & Friends | | | | | | Fox News Live | | | |
| GMA 7 | Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako | Now and Forever | First Love Of A Royale Prince | | Dragonball Z | Great Teacher Onizuka | La Robe de Mariage | 24 Oras | | Extra Challenge | Majika | Encantadia | My Name Is Kim Sam Soon | Jewel In The Palace | | Bubble Gang | | | Saksi |
| Hallmark Channel | Bewitched | Judging Amy | | Straight From The Heart (3:50 PM) | | | Ladies Man | Bewitched | The Nanny | Strong Medicine | | Judging Amy | | Midsomer Murders Dark Autumn | | | Doc Martin (10:35PM) | | Strong Medicine (11:25PM) |
| HBO | | | Home Fries | | | Mard X (5:15 PM) | | | Van Helsing (6:45 PM) | | | | | Along Came Polly | | | Catwoman | | |
| Hero TV | Yakitate! Japan | Mr. Ajikko | D.I.C.E. | Samurai Deeper Kyo | Gatekeepers | The Wanderers | Combattler V | Gundam Seed | Iron Man 28 | Naruto | Mirmo de Pon | Inuyasha | Yu-Gi-Oh | Yakitate! Japan | Mr. Ajikko | D.I.C.E. | Samurai Deeper Kyo | Gundam Seed | Iron Man 28 |
| IBC 13 | | EZ Shop | | | | Home Shopping Network | IBC Express Balita | Lifestyle | | Home Shopping Network | | ME TV | | PTA Best Of The Philippines | | Global Family Series | IBC News Tonite | Home Shopping Network | |
| JackTV | Primetime Glick | The Late Show David Letterman | | Jack In The Box | | | | Megas XLR | Beat The Geeks | Mad TV | | That 70s Show | Always Sunny In Philadelphia | The Late Show David Letterman | | The Daily Show With Jon Stewart | Premium Blend | Reno 911 | Insomniac W/ Dave Attell |
| Lifestyle Network | Country Style | Interiors By Design | Decorating With Style | Decorating Cents | Molto Mario | Sweet Dreams | 30 Minute Meals | Bill Boggs Corner | Unwrapped | Ming's Quest | Intimate Portrait | | Behind The Velvet Ropes | Life & Style | | Simply Dine With Andrea Inmor | The Great Adventure | Iron Chef America | |
| MTV Philippines | MTV Hits | 5 Things About Lee Ryan | MTV Hits | | Trippin | Pop Inc. | | 2006 MAA Nominee Specials | MTV Hits | | | Get Hitch'd | Get Spotted | Diyos | | MTV Hits | Trippin | MTV Hits | VH1 Video Collections |
| MYX | | Rock MYX | My MYX | Mellow MYX | Urban MYX | Take 5 | MYXILOG | | Star MYX | OPM MYX | Pop MYX | MYX Daily Top Ten | | Club MYX | MYX Versions | Urban MYX | My MYX | MYX Backtrax | MYXILOG |
| National Geographic | Africa From The Ground Up | Explorations Powered By Duracell | Rough Trades | Nat Geographic Amazing Moments | | | | Top 5 | | Wow! | | About Asia | | Terrorism Week | | Explorations Powered By Duracell | Rough Trades | Animal Cannibals | |
| NBN | | Teledyaryo Alas-Tres | | Teledyaryo Sports Atbp. | Diyos Ko, Mahal Ko Ba Siya | Teledyaryo W/ Ray Lanting & Angelique Lazo | | Tinig ng Bayan (Live) | | | | Teledyaryo Final Edition | | | | Bantay OCW With Susan K | | | |
| Nickelodeon | Chalkzone | Hey Arnold! | SpongeBob SquarePants | My Life As A Teenage Robot | All Grown Up | The Adventures Jimmy Neutron | SpongeBob SquarePants | Drake & Josh | Naturally Sadie | Romeo | All That | All Grown Up | As Told By Ginger | Four Eyes | SpongeBob SquarePants | The Adventures Jimmy Neutron | The Fairly Odd Parents | My Dad The Rock Star | |
| PBO | | | Ang Boyfriend Kong Gamol | | | | Iduyan Mo Ang Duyan Ko | | | | It's Cool Bulol | | | | Fight Night 5 | | | | The Ultimate Champion Rachel Ann Go |
| Qtv | Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin | | Zentrix | The Prince Of Tennis | MMS (My Music Station) | | Moms | | Love At Aegean Sea | Irene | Mars | Laugh To Laugh: Ang Kulit | Ganda Ng Lola Ko | | News On Q | Love Life | | Irene | Romance |
| RPN 9 | TV Shopping | | | | Krusada Kontra Krimen | | Global Window | Entertainment Tonight | The Insider | WWE Smackdown | | World Poker | | The Ultimate Fighter | | Newswatch Now | TV Gauls On Friday | | |
| SBN 21 | | | | New Life TV Shopping | | | | Winner TV Shopping | | SBN Music Video | | Oras Ng Himala | | Oras ng Katotohanan | | Shepherd's Voice | | SBN Music Video | |
| Solar Sports | | WTA Indian Wells '06 Finals | | | | | | Fight | KOTV | Sagupaan | NBA Jam | NBA Game Spurs @ Lakers | | | | | Sportsdesk | IBF '06 China Masters Finals | |
| Sports Plus | | | | | | | | World Game | | Fed City 500 Highlights | | Nopi Tunervision 5 | BD Rio de Janeiro | | Xotic Xtreme Ep. 06 | Inside the PGA | | Bell South Classic Day 1 | |
| Star Movies | | Hoosiers | | | | Species 2 | | | Cold Mountain | | | | | Out Of Reach | | | The First Power | | |
| Star World | 8 Simple Rules | The Bold & The Beautiful | | General Hospital | | Angel | | American Idol | | Star News Asia | Seinfeld | American Idol | | TNA Wrestling | | NYPD Blue | | Seinfeld | American Idol |
| Studio 23 | Bewitched | Masked Rider Ryuki | | | | Batman Beyond | Teen Titans* | The Batman | Justice League Unlimited | Wazzup Wazzup | | Survivor Guatemala | | Barkada Nights | | News Central | Oprah | | Just Shoot Me |

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# LIFESTYLE

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

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or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

NESS ● WEDNESDAY **2BU** ● THURSDAY **FOOD** ● FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**

MANILA

SINGAPORE

# Glam fest

MARCH HAS BEEN A MOST glamorous month, what with all the fashion weeks concurrently going on in various countries.

Americans had their Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week in Culver City, California last week, and, of course that was celebrity-studded, thanks to nearby Hollywood.

[illegible] week, there was the Ukrainian Fashion Week in Kiev. And would you believe that the Bosnian Serbs have been holding a fashion week for six years now? Not to be outdone, fashion designers are showing off in Beirut, Lebanon, too. Oh, and let's not forget Moscow.

Though we may not be too familiar with Barranquilla, Colombia, it is another site for a fashion week this month. Likewise with Portugal.

Asia is just as chic. While the 2006-2007 autumn and winter collections of international designers are being unveiled at the Tokyo Fashion Week, there are ongoing fashion week shows in Singapore, India and China.

But the fashion week of our affection remains the Philippine version. For openers, check out our interview with its prime mover [illegible]

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| Gmv Gian Marco Ventturi | ₱399.99 | ₱799.99 |
| Balenciaga *Bags* | ₱1,999.99 | ₱5,999.99 |
| Chloe *Bags* | ₱1,999.99 | ₱5,999.99 |
| Boss *Wallets* | ₱399.99 | ₱1,299.99 |
| Versace/Mont Blanc *Belts* | ₱499.99 | ₱1,934.99 |
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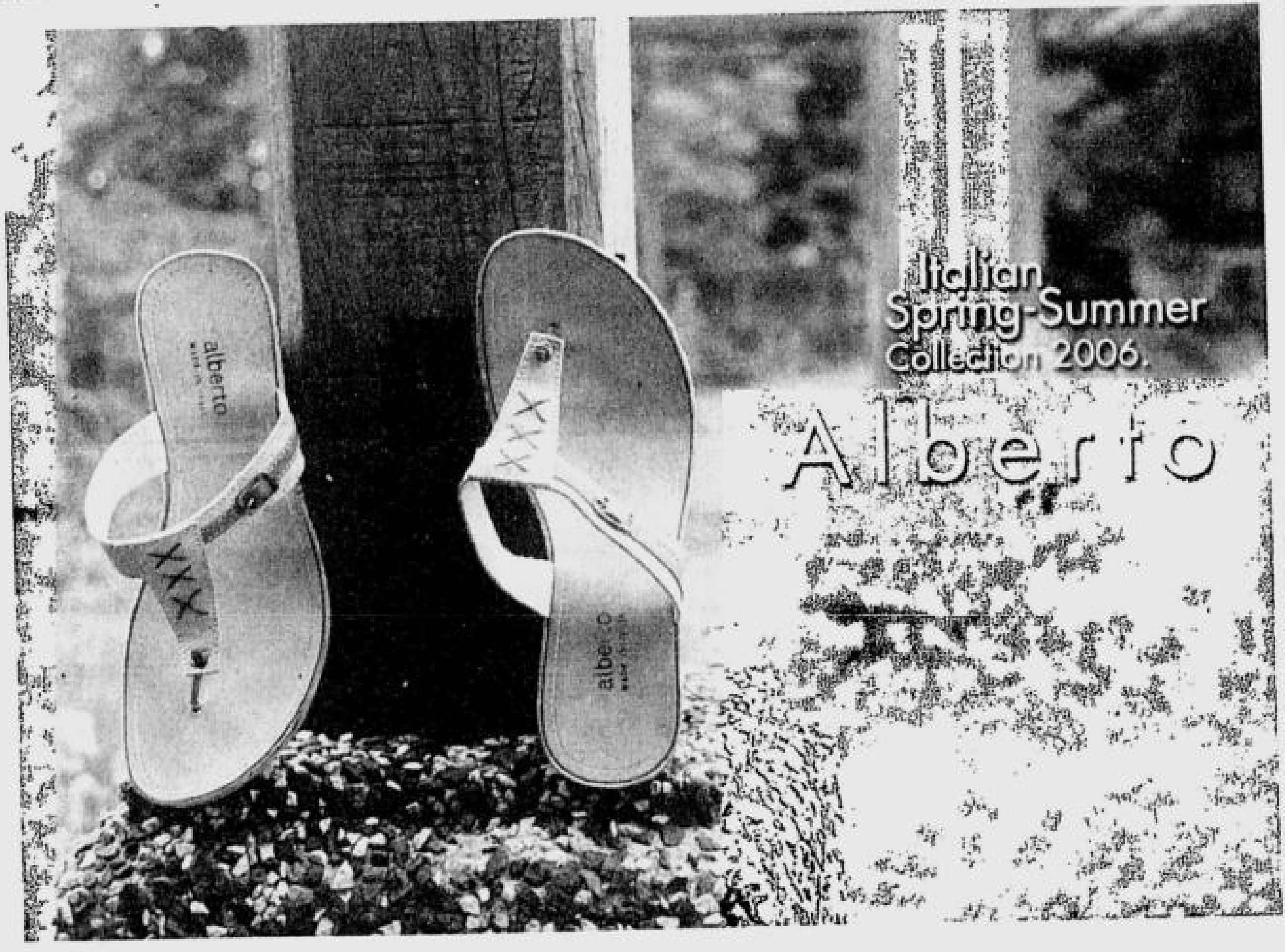

Italian Spring-Summer Collection 2006.
Alberto
alberto

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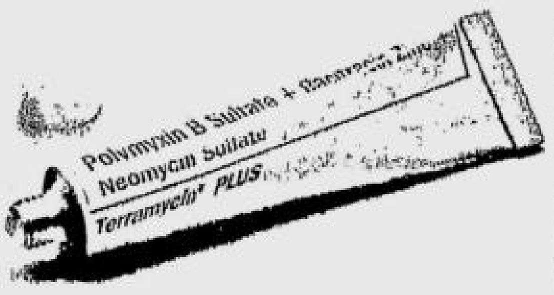

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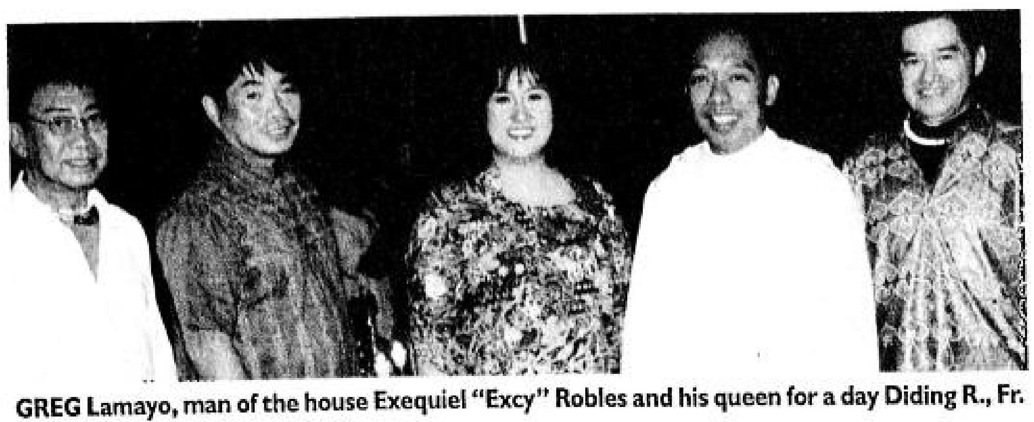


**GREG** Lamayo, man of the house Exequiel "Excy" Robles and his queen for a day Diding R., Fr. Ray Garcia and Boy Cruz

**CARMINA** Sotto

**WE ARE FAMILY.** Paul Michael, Michelle, Joanna, Marlon and Jayson Robles, and their mother, Matilde "Diding" Robles

**HIP YOUNG** guests Marc Sanvictores, May Liwanag, Alex Roman, Toby Ocampo

**INVITEES** Mr. and Ms Alex Joseph, and Teresita Santos

**CONNIE** de Silva

# Beauty and bravura in Iloilo

**CHRISTY** Joy Comohoy

**GORGEOUS** candidate and crowd favorite Janice Boteros

**WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH**

*Maurice Arcache*

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using Kodak EasyShare system

THE ANNUAL MISS DINAGYANG OF Iloilo contest is something that *moi* always looks forward to, *palanggas*. So faster than you could bat an eyelash, there I was in Iloilo City as the head of the panel of judges for the Miss Dinagyang 2006 pageant.

Pretty, intelligent and popular **Cherry May Barbo**, a BS Tourism student and the reigning Miss Central Philippines University, was the hands-down winner from the very start. Taking the thumbs-up of the judges, the stunning looker also bagged the Best in Interview, Best in Dinagyang Terno, and Best in Festival Costume, plus the Darling of the Press Award from Iloilo's Hall Press Corps, which was presented by president **Lydia Pendon** and past president **David Sinay** of Panay News, no less.

A close second was statuesque Jane **Baruis**, while the third placer was eye-catching **Girlie Ocos**.

Among the eight gorgeous finalists were **Christy Camohoy**, **Rhegine Zamora** (Miss Talent); **Mary Grace Rafil**; **Cheche Salcepuedes** and **Charis Bernas**.

This year's Miss Dinagyang was definitely one of the best yet, a showcase of elegant fashion, top entertainment, and a spectacle of sights and sounds.

The best part *moi* loved was the fabulous festival costumes done by the candidates' favorite designers. It was a fantastic showcase of talent and imagination that drew loud applause, whistles and howls from the excited audience at Cinema 6 of SM Iloilo.

Candidates wore fire-engine red cocktail dresses by Krizia of SM Department Store; colorful two-piece swimsuits by River Hive; and *hablon* and chiffon ternos by fashion designer **Randy Jimenez**.

*Hablon* is a world-class material used by local and international designers, *palanggas*. It is the source of local pride of the people of Miag-ao, Iloilo, who are known for their craftsmanship.

Good-looking singer-actor **Keempee de Leon** serenaded the swooning candidates, while handsome actor-model **Brad Turvey** did a great job hosting the pageant, with national debating champ **Sedfrey Cabaluna** as the co-host.

The well-picked panel of judges included fashion designer **Nono Palmos**; smart **Arlene Sison** of Smart Telecommunications; fun **Cromwell Enriquez** of Bayview Park Hotel in Manille; adorable **Ana Mendoza** of Cebu Pacific; **Rodolfo Cueva** of Negros Navigation Co. Inc.; **Boy Palermo** of SM Cinema; **Beth Oranga** of Natasha; and Texas-based **Tom Swett**.

Making sure the pageant would go smoothly, which it did, were dedicated executive producer and fashion plate **Tres Solis**; program director **Edwin Duero**; and Panay News' **John B. Castigador**, who handled the promotions, dahlings.

A little birdie told me that a candidate had a good chance of making it to the finals, but some of the judges and the production staff were appalled by her insolence, arrogance and attitude problem. Oops!

Once the curtains fell, it was time to chill out for the candidates, cast and crew, who were treated to a fun party by Tres Solis at Nena's River Hive Restaurant, where everyone had a blast, especially candidate **Donna Dee Tatayon**, who was turning into a young, beautiful woman in time for her 18th birthday, *palanggas*..

## Birthday outreach

Someone who achieves great success can't help but share the blessings with the less fortunate. And no one knows this more than the very affable and energetic real estate magnate and civic leader **Matilde "Diding" Robles**, *palanggas*.

She is president of Royal Homes Marketing Corp., of which her husband of 25 years, **Exequiel Robles**, is the dynamic CEO.

Hey, there is no doubt that this multifaceted woman is a big star.

So during her big day, instead of accepting gifts, she organized her annual outreach program: three activity-filled days of various programs at different charitable institutions, *palanggas*.

For this year, the first part of her outreach was delivering necessities to the typhoon victims of Calapan, Mindoro. A few days after, she went to Bahay Kanlungan at Mambungan, Antipolo City, a home for the elderly run by the Camilian Sisters. Once again, she spent some time having fun with the elderly folk and providing them with bags of goodies and medicines.

For the last part of her outreach, Diding spent time with the hearing-impaired students of the Ma. Lena Buhay Memorial Foundation Inc. This project was aptly titled "Dinggin ang Pintig ng Pag-ibig" (as in, "Listen to the Pulse of Love"), where Diding organized a *tres* entertaining program for the students and a fun bash to lift their morale.

*Naturellement*, this generosity was also witnessed during her Bali-themed birthday party at the sprawling Robles residence in Dela Paz, Antipolo.

A short Mass celebrated by Fr. Ray Garcia opened the bash, followed by a sumptuous dinner, prepared by Diding's gang.

During dinner, a special program, titled "Her Favorite Things," was prepared by Royal Homes with her pals and co-workers, which definitely touched the celebrator.

Her five children—**Michael, Jason, Michelle, Marlon** and **Joanna**—presented her with a "cosmetics travel kit and some matching shoes and bags to complement our mama's fashionable lifestyle," as one of her kids said. Her husband, *natch*, gave her a humongous bouquet of her favorite flowers.

Then it was time to rock and roll, and rock everyone did to the swinging sounds of the Side A band. It was the perfect affair to end an event-filled birthday celebration.

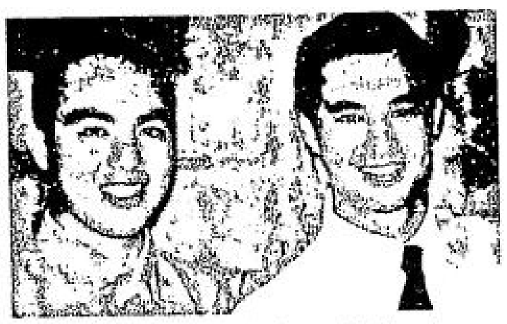
For Diding R., it was just the start of another awesome year and more opportunities to touch people's lives through her many endeavors.

**ALL LOOKING** luscious in their fab costumes are Wienna Legislador, Rhegine Zamora and Donna Dee Tatayon.

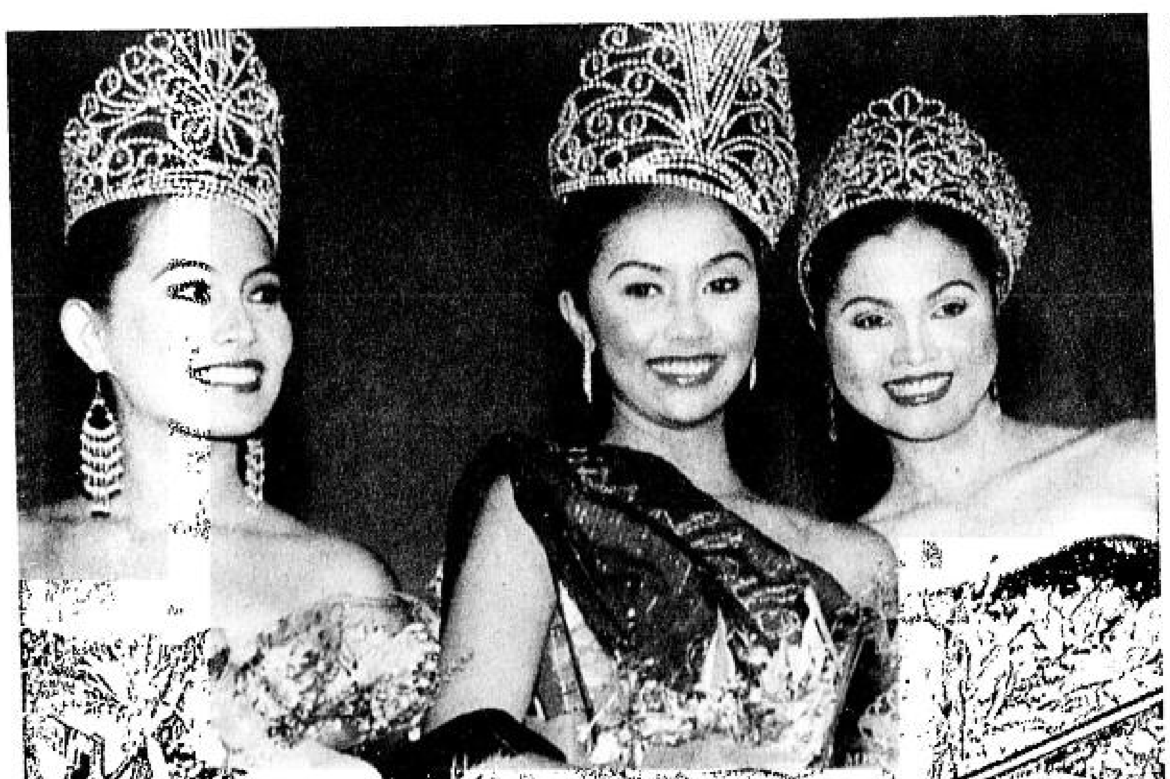
**YOUNG** beauties on parade. Cheche Salcepuedes, Girlie Ocos and Jury Magne Tabusares

**ILOILO** princess Isabel Camille Gallardo and brother Joshua present the scepter and crown to the Miss Iloilo Dinagyang 2006 winner.

**CROMWELL** Enriquez crowns second runner-up Girlie Ocos while guest singer Keempee de Leon, SM's Boy Palermo and Beth Oranga watch.



**CO-HOST** Sedfrey Cabaluna with handsome emcee Brad Turvey



**WINNERS'** circle. Jane Baruis, first runner-up; Cherry May Barbo, Miss Iloilo Dinagyang 2006; and Girlie Ocos, second runner-up

**TOP DESIGNER** Nono Palmos, Ben Jimena and Cynthia Patag's mother, Linda Hoblitzell

**HON. JED** Mabilog and Iloilo PNP Director Col. Norberto Bautista

JANUARY 20-29
DINAGYANG EXHIBITS (3rd floor)
JANUARY 22
INDIGENOUS HEADDRESS FASHI
MOUNTAIN BIKE COMPETITI

**JUDGES** Nieva Seruelo, Cebu Pacific's Ana Mendoza, Smart's Arlene Sison, John B. Castigador and *moi*

ON KRISTEL: HerBench crisp white polo, HerBench denim shorts, shoes and bag from Auztralian, scarf from RDS

**ON MELISSA:** Candy green cropped knit sweater, Candy purple tank top and Candy flared khaki pants

CO. B black baby tee, Co. B low-rise denims, shoes and bags from Auztralian, scarf from RDS

# Strictly for ladies

IT'S BEEN THE SEASON OF FASHION AND everything feminine at Robinsons Department Store (RDS) with its promo "It's All About Ladies" this month.

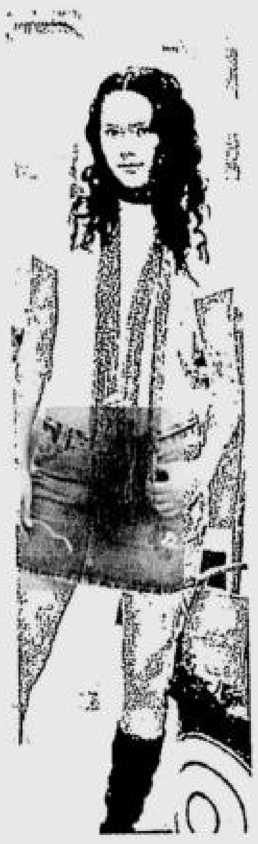
The event opened recently with a live mannequin show in the ladies' section of RDS at Robinsons Galleria. Two models stole the show as live mannequins who changed into different chic outfits that showcased stylish collections from Freego, Crissa, Bobson, RRJ, HerBench, Company B, Candy and Porsche.

Today is the last day for bargain hunters and fashion-forward femmes to splurge on trendy basics and save up to 50 percent on selected ladies' apparel, accessories, shoes and bags. If your single-receipt purchase totals P700, you also get a free ladies' shirt.

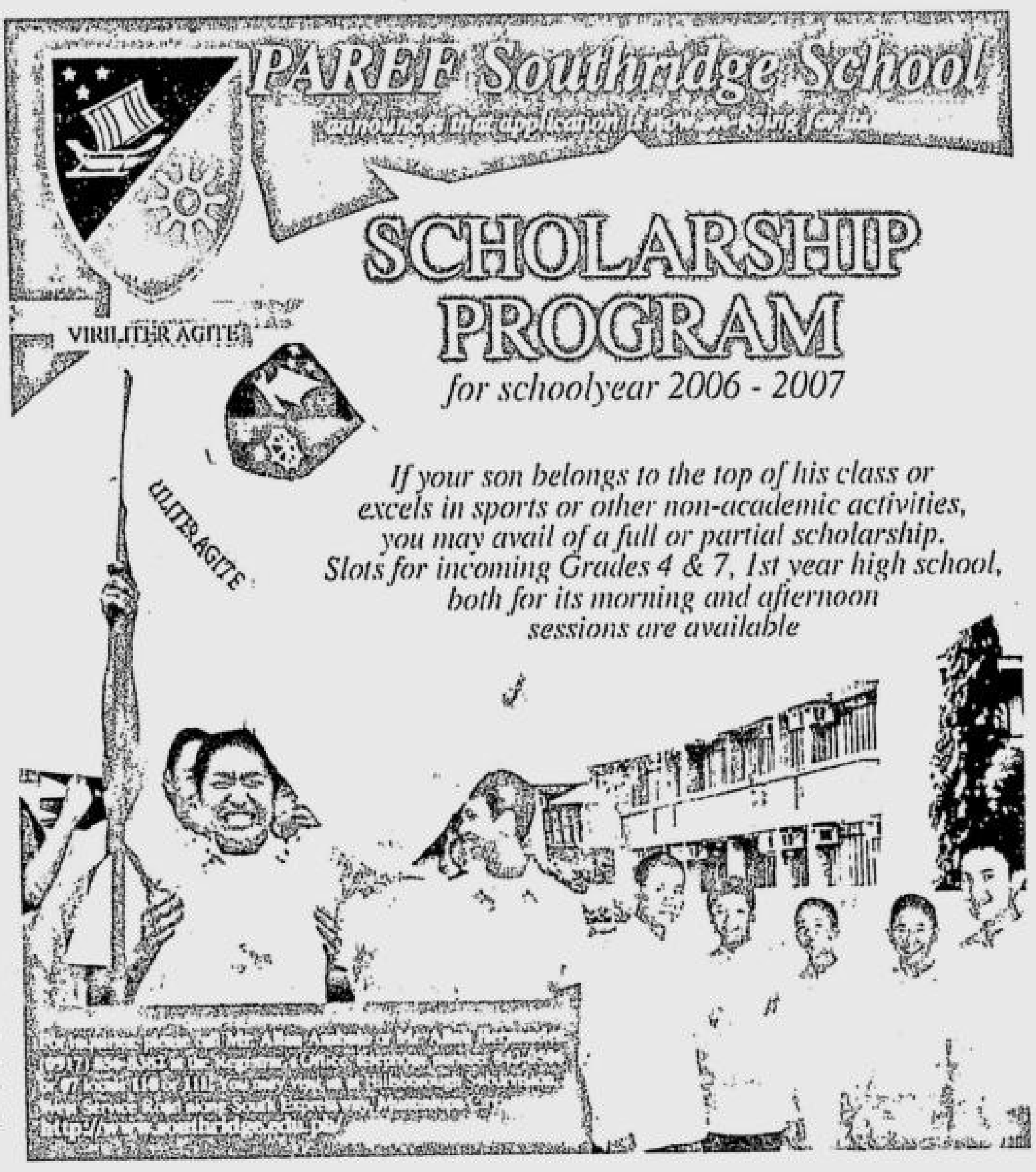
Also, get a chance to win great prizes including an overnight stay at a hotel, buffet dinner, hair and makeup package and a P50,000 shopping raid at RDS Galleria in the "Girlfriend Bonding Package" promo.

"It's All About Ladies" happens in all RDS branches located in Robinsons Malls, Waltermart Malls, Tutuban Center, Metropolis Star and Festival Mall in Alabang and Nepo Mall Pampanga.

**BOBSON** striped three-fourths shirt, Bobson denim skirt, shoes and bag from Auztralian, scarf from RDS



**FREEGO** white baby tee, Freego denim mini skirt with floral embroidery, shoes and bag from Auztralian



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# It's getting tougher...

From page C4

continue Philippine Fashion Week which is now on its 10th year.

I asked Joey how things have been and the pint-size guy who took on this giant project could only roll out his tongue to indicate how exhausting it has been. It's no joke trying to get sponsors for this roughly P10 million project. The Fashion Week has 106 designers, 10 days to run.

Of course, it helps that Joey has one of the biggest modeling agencies in the country, with more than a hundred in his stable. So he really has something at stake in the fashion industry.

Just like the rest of the local fashion industry, he envies Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia for mounting their own fashion weeks—supported by their governments.

These countries now see fashion design as a major tourism tool, apart from being a viable industry.

From Joey comes another good news: the Supermodel Charo Ronquillo whom he groomed and who has bested models from 30 countries in the Ford's Supermodel search, is getting her breaks in New York. The 17-year-old student from Laguna has caught the eye of A-list photographers like Steven Meisel.

## DJ comes to town

The hot ticket tonight is the big dance event featuring the world's best DJ, Tiesto, at PICC Forum, organized by Edge Pamute. Some 15,000 hyper-energy bodies are expected.

The trade buzz is the closing of men's shopping magazine, Cargo. After two years of what WWD calls "setbacks and reversals," the Conde Nast magazine has its last issue this May. It didn't go the way of its very successful female counterpart, the precedent-setting Lucky. WWD wrote, "Cargo left the world the way it entered it: with much scratching of heads."

*E-mail the author at thelma_ssanjuan@abs.pinoycentral.com*

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# Monique Lhuillier's Manila show set in November

**LIFE-STYLED**

*Thelma Sioson San Juan*

But it's getting tougher to produce fashion shows

FLASH! THE MUCH-AWAITED Monique Lhuillier fashion show is finally pushing through on Nov. 12.

The people behind the project—Doris Magsaysay-Ho of the Asian Society and Gina Lopez and Mons Tantoco of ABS-CBN Foundation—are reportedly planning a gala and another show. They are also said to be tapping Imelda Cojuangco to chair the organizing committee.

### Travails of fashion organizing

Hardly did I expect that after years of covering fashion shows and designers—paying my dues, so to speak—I'd end up mounting fashion shows myself for these designers, and thus paying more dues.

Some karma. I sometimes chide designer-friends that from covering them, I've turned into their fundraiser, a fashion impresario of sorts. Like many life-altering things, it happened accidentally—when instinct led us to mount a retrospective exhibit of Joe Salazar during, as it would turn out, Joe's final year. From then on, our Metro Magazine moved on to bigger shows—the annual Metrowear, among them.

I mention this only to note that it's getting harder to organize fashion shows and, thus, to build a so-called fashion industry. It was never easy to begin with. However, what makes it especially harder this time is that there are no more regular fashion patrons who will bankroll a show.

In the '70s and early '80s, Imelda Marcos and her Blue Ladies saw to it that fashion helped promote the country's image for whatever political ends they might have had. There were the Bagong Anyo and the galas of select designers—from Christian Espiritu to Pitoy Moreno. Those were grand, or at least elaborate, affairs funded and patronized by the social and political elite.

Also in the '70s and '80s were the daily (yes, daily) luncheon fashion series mounted by then-new five-star hotels, which were competing fiercely against each other, notably Hyatt and Hilton, both of which tapped the society doyennes to mobilize their wide social networks. These were, of course, Chito Madrigal and Conching Sunico.

The daily series was what made today's fashion stalwarts, from Inno Sotto, Larrie Silva, Auggie Cordero to Joe Salazar, Rusty Lopez, Gang Gomez—their skills honed in the do-or-die competition and their grit formed by merciless reviews in the dailies. This era also produced the supermodel Anna Bayle and other top models like Bessie Badilla who knew how to parade in RTW and swimwear as well as in haute couture gowns.

From the '80s to the '90s there was also Imelda Cojuangco and PLDT who sponsored the prime fashion fare and major cultural concerts.

The Aquino era still saw a fashion gala now and then. The Ramos administration, through First Lady Ming Ramos and the Cabinet Ladies Foundation, aimed big in fashion and achieved much in Asean. Tapping Richard Tann, Ming Ramos had the highly successful and precedent-setting Asean Design Shows which drew to Manila the designers from all over Asean—and CNN's Elsa Klensch.

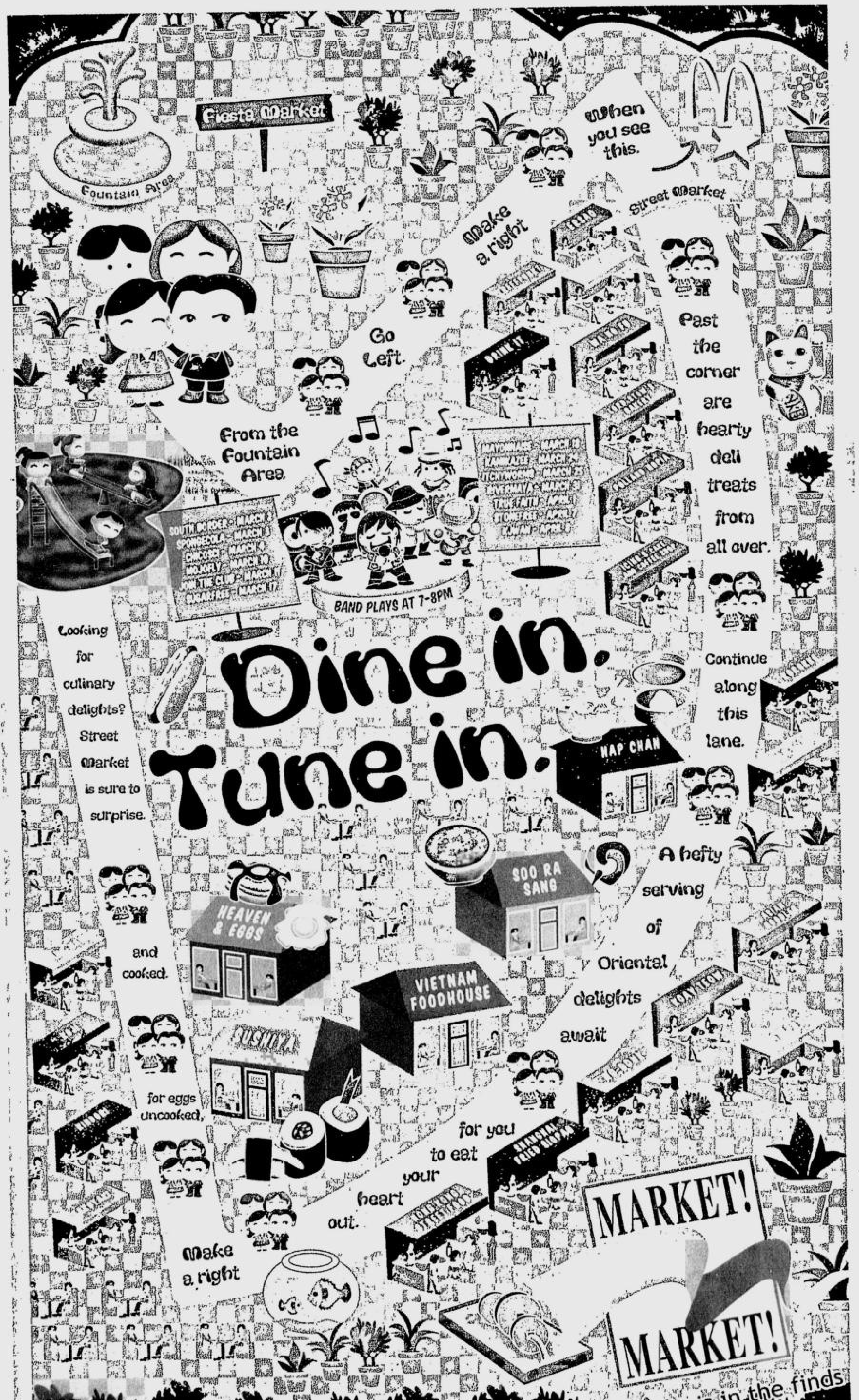
If I remember right, there were also major fashion shows in the short-lived Estrada administration through First Lady Loi Ejercito. In the current administration, I don't remember any (I could be wrong, though), busy as the President has been in trying to survive.

From the '01 onwards, it has been to each his own in mounting fashion shows. It's been tough. Fashion shows have nowhere to look at but corporations for sponsorships, and big business looks at fashion to promote its product or services. It's a tough sell.

### Fashion Week

How gutsy of producer Joey Espino to

MONIQUE/ C3



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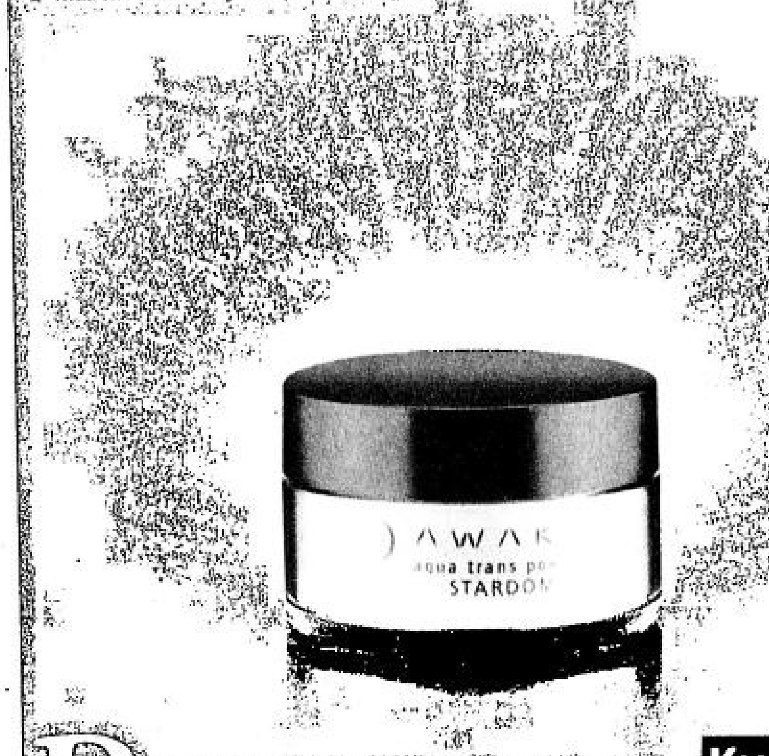
# BEAUTY

*Editor* **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
Contributing editor
Ria Francisco-Prieto
E- mail me at rbeauty@inquirer.com.ph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STORY ON PAGE D3

**KNOCKOUT!**

**Ria Francisco-Prieto**

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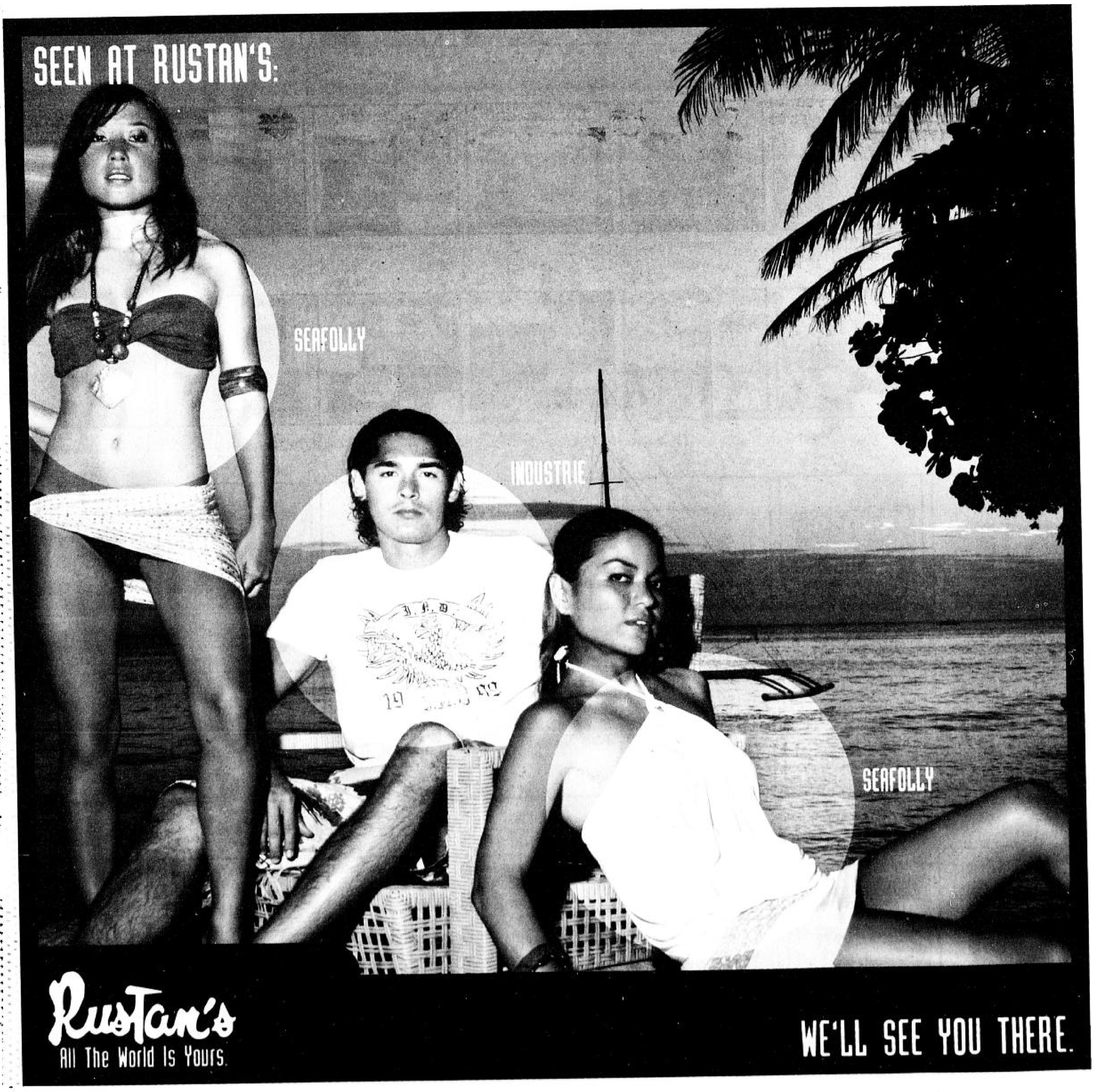
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cut & keep

# Red-hot lippies

## Because you know you should try it once in your life

AFTER: pretty striking

IF YOU WANT TO BE NOTICED, WEAR RED LIPSTICK.

Red doesn't have to be a strong statement, unless you want it to be. A gloss or a hint of red can be just as effective. Lipstick is the most versatile makeup because you can change it according to your mood.

Feeling flirty? Use ultra-sheer pink gloss. Sad? Try burgundy. Happy? Go for crimson red! The important thing here is to feel comfortable and happy with your style.

There are so many ways to apply color to your lips as there are so many shades, so experiment, experiment, till you find the right color and method for you!

### Step by step to perfect lips

1. Before you begin, cover your lips with a thin layer of foundation or powder to provide a good base for the color. Make this an automatic step when making up your face.

2. Starting at the center of your upper lip, draw a line to each outer corner, following the edge of your natural lip line. Repeat to draw a line on the bottom lip.

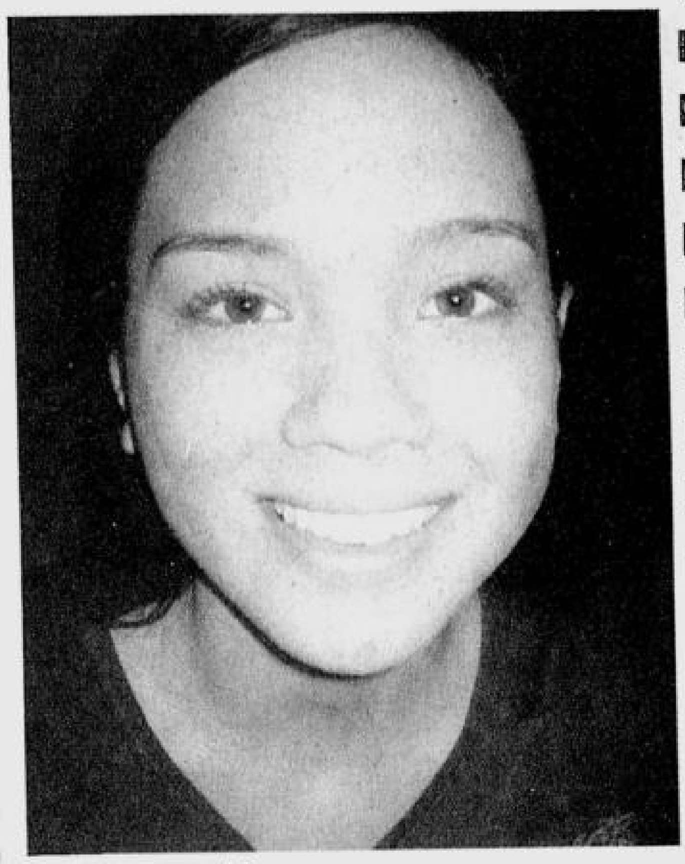
3. Apply the red lipstick. Whether from the tube, a brush or your finger, start from the center of the top or bottom lips and glide the color to the corner. If you want the just-been-kissed look, supply with your fingers for that stained effect.

Try Maybelline Moisture Extreme in Mystic Burgundy, Art Deco Glamour Gloss in 82 and Shu Uemura Lipstick in 279.

4. Blot with tissue and reapply the color again.

As for the rest of the face, keep it neutral. Do not wear bold eye colors if you're having red lips, since it would be too much to look at. Just line your eyes and curl your lashes for that polished look.

TEXT AND MAKEUP BARBI CHAN



BEFORE: pretty plain

# Bravura...

From page D1

I ENJOY GETTING MASSAGES at home. The sad news is, I have yet to find a home-service company with a therapist I like. I have actually experienced a masseuse from hell. Every touch was pure pain. I told her to stop pressing on my spine. I would stop breathing once in a while to brace myself from the pain. As stupid as it sounds, I was actually waiting for it to get better, but it never did. After the massage, I needed to get another one... fast!

So I promised myself, when I find a good masseuse, I would write about her so you won't have to experience the masseuse from hell. And that experience also got me thinking of all the products I bought because of their good advertising and celebrity endorsers but were just a waste of money.

In my effort to avoid buying beauty products that actually don't work, I decided to walk around the beauty counters of Essenses and Rustan's Department Store and do my own product research. I knew I won't be able to try all the products but, if I asked the salesladies their bestsellers, there was a high probability of them being good products because their consumers actually went back for seconds and thirds. I also checked out my favorite tested brands.

My first stop was L'Occitane. I love its honey moisturizing mask. Apparently, the Almond line is also a bestseller. What's great about L'Occitane is you can ask about the products' history and they're always made available to you. I found out that the almond tree was traditionally a symbol of the Provencal landscape, just like lavender and olive oil. But from the 1930s, when it was replaced by more profitable crops, it became scarce.

L'Occitane products use almonds only from Provence to rebuild the presence of almond trees in this province. Wow, what rich history and what a great cause. Best of all, almonds are well-known for their moisturizing and softening benefits, plus the almond shell has firming and revitalizing powers. Combined with other ingredients, these proteins fight the appearance of cellulite and reshapes the silhouette.

The Almond line also comes with an almond-scented candle that is sensual and will make every room smell gorgeous.

AMANDE
BOUGIE
DELICE D'AMANDE
ALMOND DELIGHT
CANDLE

L'OCCITANE Almond Scented Candle

### Experience

I then went to Awake. I believe Awake is one brand that has to be discovered by everyone. It delivers!

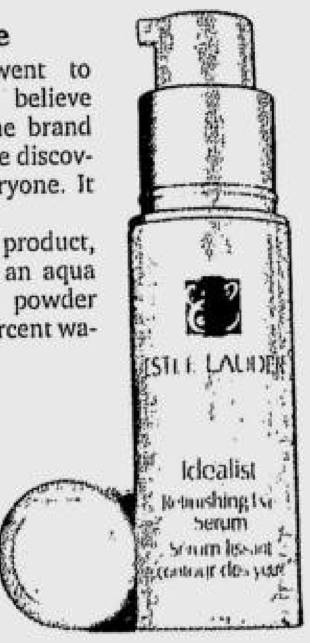
Its new product, Stardom, is an aqua translucent powder that is 77 percent water-based. I tried it and it has a refreshing cooling effect that's great for our hot weather. I also ended up with a semi-matte finish. I was glowing but not looking like I had oily skin. Awake products are an experience in my book.

Under-eye wrinkles are something people don't worry about until they are actually visible. When it comes to beauty, prevention is the best solution. Estée Lauder has an eye-refining serum that irons out fine lines. Since the skin under your eyes is actually seven times weaker than the skin of the face, it is more prone to sagging, dryness and dullness.

The serum gives intense hydration and optical diffusers that help refract light away from the skin and visibly blur the fine and dry lines around the eyes. I had to get it!

I spent the whole afternoon happily going counter-hopping. I found more products than I thought I could find. Best of all, I think they're the best of the best out there. Hopefully, I'd never again have to buy a lemon product.

A piece of advice: If you find yourself depressed one day, go beauty shopping and do your own research on beauty products. Walk around the store, try the testers and take your pick. You never know what you'd end up having on your way home.



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Get a Whitening starter kit for only ₱299*!

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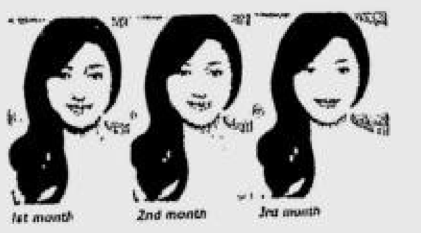
Whitening Capsule

Achieving porcelain-white, celebrity complexion and making it last is a process that goes beyond the usual skin-deep solutions. Thanks to the discovery of Glutathione, getting more permanent results has finally become so effortless.

Glutathione is essentially a natural, immunity-boosting tripeptide amino acid that is found in the body. Regular intake of Glutathione has been tested and proven for its positive "effect": whitening of dark skin! No wonder, it has been dubbed as the "prescription-of-the-moment" by Hollywood dermatologists, thus earning its stature as one of the most coveted, "to-die-for" beauty arsenals among celebrities, socialites—and practically anyone who can afford it.

However, with the cutting-edge expertise of Hortaleza, M.D., the once-prohibitively priced Glutathione is now made accessible with new Hortaleza, M.D. Illuminous Whitening Capsule! Enjoy the multi-benefits of Glutathione whitening, and anti-ageing, plus Vitamins C and E with Alpha Lipoic Acid. All in one capsule for only ₱39.75 each! That's 53% more affordable than other brands! Get it in packs of 30's and 10's at all HBC Home of Beauty Exclusives Stores nationwide. Now isn't that illuminating news for your skin?



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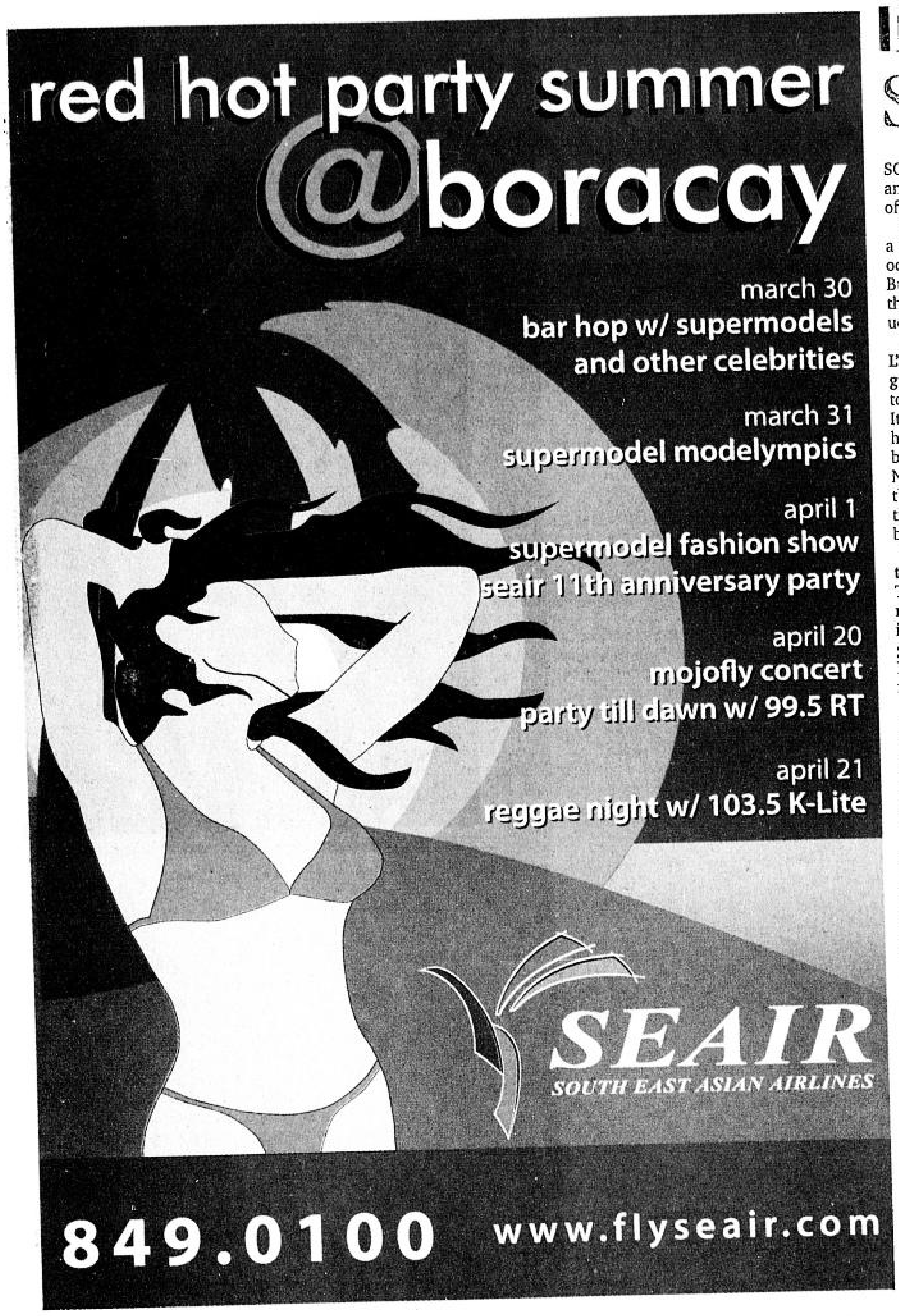
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# Summer-proof beauty

## MAKEOVER 911

*Kinny Salas*

SCHOOL IS OVER! THIS MEANS FAMILIES and students will be spending more time out of town or outdoors.

Everyone thinks it is all fun but I always put a damper on things as I worry about body odor and skin disasters. But we are lucky because there seems to be a product for every beauty scare.

Flat hair boosters. **L'Oreal Party proof hair gel** (P445) is sweat-, water-, and humidity-proof! It's great for short hairstyles and is now my brother's favorite hair gel. No matter how sweaty or rained on you get, the strategically rumpled style is maintained throughout the day. It can easily be removed by shampoo and water.

**Kerastase Volumactive shampoo and Vitacement leave-on conditioning treatment.** Those with thin, limp hair look like drowned rats with sweat added on. Big, bodacious hair is now within reach. This shampoo really gives body to my thin hair. It's as close to Pamela-Anderson hair as I can get with minimal styling aids.

Smelly scalp syndrome. Oily-hair shampoos like **Apivita** for intensely greasy hair really soaks up the oil (responsible for making our scalp smelly). Even when I sweat profusely I notice that there is no bad odor. Apivita even reduces hair fall dramatically as oily hair is one of the main reasons for baldness.

Suncare for face. Specific sunblock for the face is a must as unlike the body, this is most prone to breakouts. This simple concoction is the closest to the fountain of youth as we can get. Clarins' bestsellers are the **Anti-Aging SPF 30 face sunblock** and **Clarins SPF 30 sunblock for eyes**, which is specifically designed for the gentle eye area where the first signs of aging emerge. **L'Oreal tinted moisturizer SPF 50** is great for adding sheer color to even out skin tone. It's also great for sun protection. Of course, Japanese SPFs such as **Awake SPF 47** and **Shu Uemura Xtreme Defender SPF 50** can also stand alone or be applied under foundation.

For greasy skin, here are the best protective mattifiers that don't make me breakout: VMV **Armada** line of sunblock from SPF 30-SPF 70 or **Shiseido sunblock SPF 30** and up or their SPF 43 foundation. VMV also has the highest sun protection lip balm with **Armada SPF 60.**

Refreshing fragrances are a must whatever time of day during the humid summer time. The strong sexy scents over the holidays will just mix with sweat and morph into something resembling B.O., which is so unsexy. Try these new arrivals from the fragrance industry.

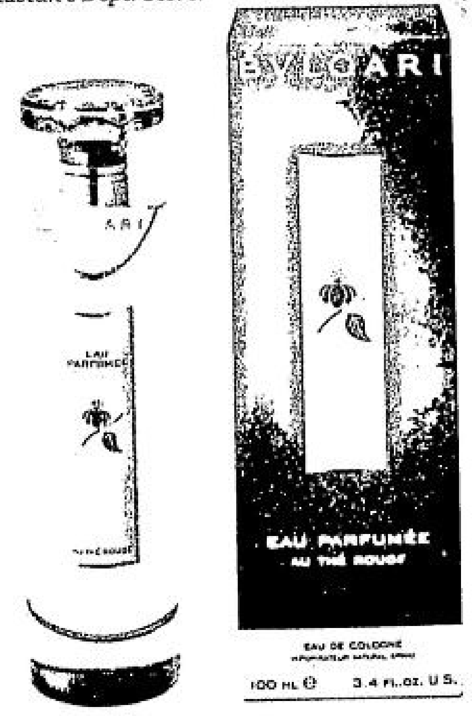
**Live by J.Lo.** At last something by her that I can actually use. I detect pear, pineapple, coconut and sugar scents that make my mouth water. The bottle is hands-down the prettiest of all perfume bottles as it resembles Murano glass.

**Bulgari Au Thé Rouge** (Red Tea). This newest addition to their tea family is actually something one would either hate or love. To me it smells like good sangria—refreshing but sweet and slightly woodsy and can be worn from day into night.

**Clarins Eau Tranquility.** The classic aquatic scent even men love.

Grapefruit- or pomelo-type scents—**Clinique Happy in Bloom, Comptoir Sud Pacifique O' Pomelo** and **Lacoste Touch of Pink.** Smells like soap and water—**Woods of Windsor Forget Me Not** and **Clean (Ultimate, Fresh Laundry and Classic).**

*Clean, Comptoir, Woods of Windsor and Apivita are exclusively available at Essenses. Clarins, Clinique, Awake and Shu Uemura at Rustan's Dept. Store.*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CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
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AND
JENNI EPPERSON

EDITOR CHELO
BANAL FORMOSO

A-LIST A-LIST A-LIST A-LIST
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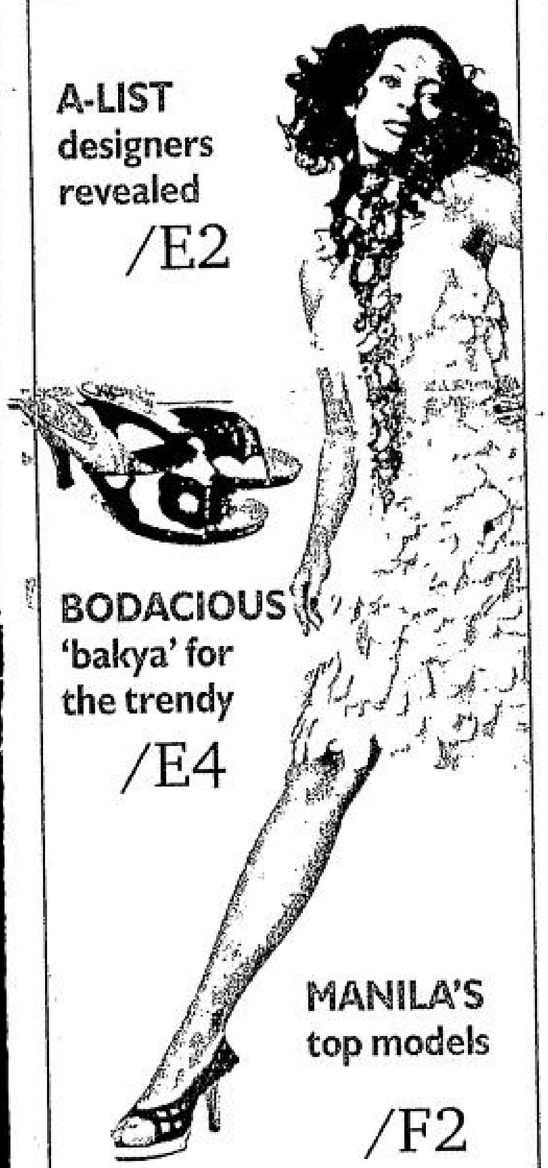

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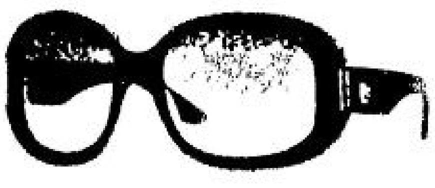

Big, bold shades to suit your shape /E3

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By Alex Y. Vergara

HOW OFTEN HAVE YOU HEARD journalists ask you not to shoot the messenger? We at INQUIRER Fashion make our own appeal as we elevate fashion designers Ivarluski Aseron, Rhett Eala, Joji Lloren, Dennis Lustico and Joey Samson to our A-list. Now, down with those eyebrows, please.

Just like other art forms, fashion design is highly subjective and not without its share of controversy. It may seem like a glamorous and profitable business, but it's also a competitive and high-profile endeavor fraught with intrigues and rivalries, both real and imagined. The onion-skinned and weak of heart need not apply.

But this creative bunch seems unmindful of such realities. No one is impervious to criticism since all of them have had their fair share of less-than-glowing reviews. Rather than allow such negative comments and comparisons to consume them, however, many just shrug them off as par for the course.

"Competition acts like a bunch of batteries that add to my mind," says Lustico. "I'm conscious of competition and I acknowledge it for helping me to strive more. As far as criticisms go, they now take two to three minutes of my time. I forget about them soon enough and move on."

Some people may have certain misgivings about our choices, but as a whole, we hope most will agree and see the merits behind such a list. Just like bonafide A-listers Inno Sotto, Auggie Cordero, Pitoy Moreno and the late Joe Salazar and Ramon Valera, these five young talents are focused and imbued with unceasing curiosity and a sense of daring and originality.

## Loyal following

Despite their attempts to push the envelope, however, they have managed to cultivate a loyal following (including a number of high-profile society and show-biz muses) and thus make their respective businesses viable. Such a tough balancing act is quite difficult to pull off in a country where even supposedly rich and educated people put little premium on haute couture. Take it from the Paris-trained Lloren.

"Unfortunately, the Philippine market doesn't have enough respect for Filipino designers," he laments. "Some clients, for instance, don't mind spending thousands of dollars on imported designer shoes and bags, but find it difficult to shell out even P10,000 for a couture piece made by a Filipino. The situation would probably change if we make it big abroad and come back."

They're not about to throw in the towel despite such nagging setbacks. All of them, with the exception of Eala, want to try their hand at doing RTW pieces, albeit on a limited and more exclusive scale. If a designer wants to remain viable, not a few of them attest, RTW is the only way to go.

After a successful run as owner and in-house designer of his very own label Wink, the Florence-trained Eala quit the RTW scene last year to focus on bridal and couture pieces. He has no reason to regret his decision.

"With the entry of bigger and cheaper imported brands, RTW has become harder to sustain," he says. "You can be more creative with MTO (made-to-order), whereas in RTW, all you think of most of the time is cost. Will this dress sell or not? You always have to be in touch with your market. It's become like a science."

Indeed, like Sotto (the designer's designer idolized by Lloren, Lustico, Aseron and Samson), these five designers are articulate, educated, well-read and have a clear sense of what they want. Unlike certain non-talents out purely for publicity and financial gain, these designers treat fame and fortune as by-products of their creativity and hard work.

## Individual strengths

As a result of their being aware of their respective niches in the industry, they're not reluctant to capitalize on their individual strengths. Nor do they feel threatened if a hot name breaks into the already crowded fashion scene. In fact, they are secure of their positions and seem to take pride in being different from one another as designers.

"Perhaps I made it to this list because of what you saw in my work," says Samson, who, unlike the others, is known for his impeccably tailored clothes.

"It's an honor as well as a challenge to constantly improve myself and supplement my knowledge," he adds. "At the same time, however, I don't feel compelled to do what the other designer does. I just have to generate ideas based on what I do best."

But unlike Sotto, Aseron and company are the first to admit they're no master tacticians. Apart from his innate talent and business acumen, their idol never seems to run out of a game plan in whatever he does. His resiliency, even during times of personal crises, and ability to latch on to trends and make them as if they're his own, are traits the five have yet to perfect.

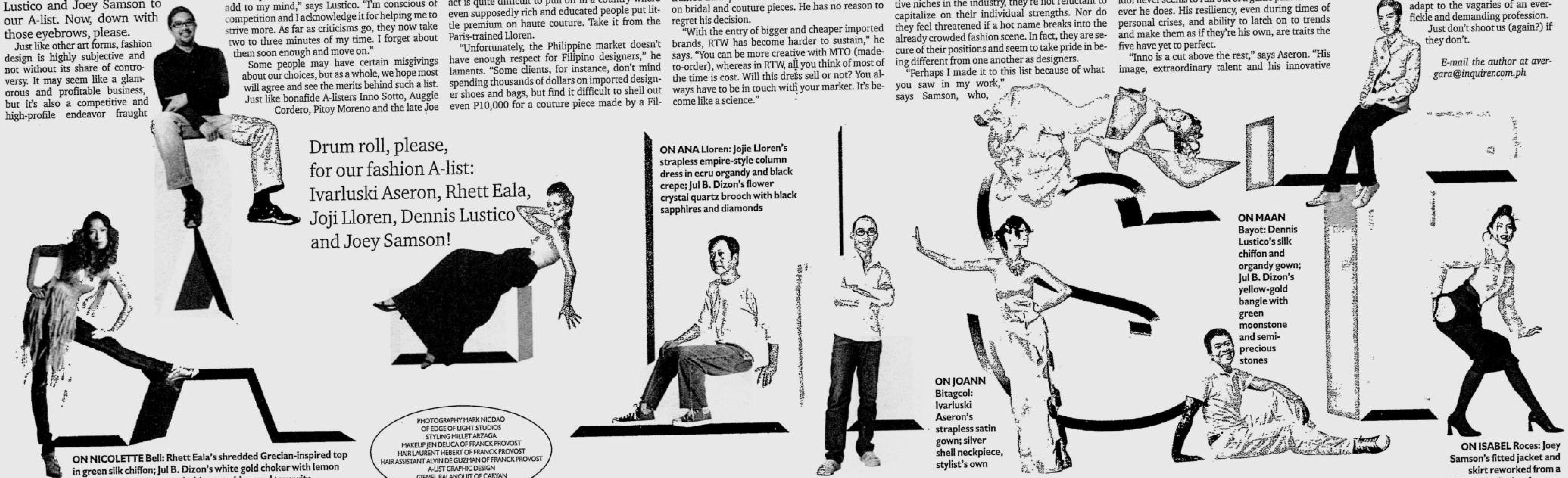
"Inno is a cut above the rest," says Aseron. "His image, extraordinary talent and his innovative mind are the stuff every young designer aspires for. But unlike him, I'm not the type who sticks to a plan. I used to do that, but I easily got frustrated if it didn't pan out."

Lustico is all praises as well for Sotto. "He's blessed with a brilliant mind not only as a designer, but as a person and as a businessman," he says. "His vision of what a woman should be is always evident in his designs."

Only time will tell if, like Sotto, our five choices have got what it takes to transcend limitations set by a fledgling local market and adapt to the vagaries of an ever-fickle and demanding profession.

Just don't shoot us (again?) if they don't.

*E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph*



Drum roll, please,
for our fashion A-list:
Ivarluski Aseron, Rhett Eala,
Joji Lloren, Dennis Lustico
and Joey Samson!

**ON NICOLETTE Bell: Rhett Eala's shredded Grecian-inspired top in green silk chiffon; Jul B. Dizon's white gold choker with lemon topaz cabochons, diamonds, blue sapphires and tsavorite**

**ON ANA Lloren: Jojie Lloren's strapless empire-style column dress in ecru organdy and black crepe; Jul B. Dizon's flower crystal quartz brooch with black sapphires and diamonds**

**ON JOANN Bitagcol: Ivarluski Aseron's strapless satin gown; silver shell neckpiece, stylist's own**

**ON MAAN Bayot: Dennis Lustico's silk chiffon and organdy gown; Jul B. Dizon's yellow-gold bangle with green moonstone and semi-precious stones**

**ON ISABEL Roces: Joey Samson's fitted jacket and skirt reworked from a black suit; Amina Aranaz-Alunan's "Moonlight" purse of Swarovski crystals**

PHOTOGRAPHY MARK NICDAO
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A-LIST GRAPHIC DESIGN
GIENEL BALANQUIT OF CARYAN

### Rhett Eala, the Pop Visionary

**Age:** 42

**Education:** Fashion design, Polymoda (Florence, Italy)

**Work-related experience:** In-house designer and one of the owners of defunct RTW brand Wink for over a decade

**Years in the biz:** "Since the early '90s"

**Trademark:** Like most of his colleagues, Eala showed an early interest in clothes and began sketching his ideas even before he could read. But unlike many of them, he knew what he wanted to do early on and prepared himself for it soon after high school. So, just when the latest buzzwords among designers were to "go RTW," Eala had already been there and done that. This forward-looking outlook can easily be seen in his chiffon and silk organdy numbers, which never seem to lose their young, sexy and wearable qualities.

**Idols in the biz:** Alber Elbaz, Stefano Pilatti, Marc Jacobs, Dennis Lustico and Ivarluski Aseron

**How would you like to be known in the biz?**

"I try my best to make clothes that are feminine as well as sexy. It shouldn't be about me. As a designer, I want to my clothes to complement rather than outshine their wearers."

### Joji Lloren, Mr. Clean

**Age:** "Not that young anymore"

**Education:** BS Clothing Technology, University of the Philippines

**Special training:** Concours International des Jeunes Createurs de Mode (Paris) on draping, design, couture sewing, prêt-a-porter (RTW) sewing, costume design, textile design and working on flat patterns

**Years in the biz:** 10

**Trademark:** Lloren is adept at working with soft as well as rigid fabrics, as he can do draping and tailoring with equal ease. But the wonders he does don't end there. Drawing from his Zen-like aesthetic and extensive couture training in Paris, Lloren fashions well-constructed gems that are minimally embellished, and cleanly and impeccably sewn inside out.

Lloren is also generous enough to share his knowledge to colleagues through regular workshops on pattern-making. Best of all, he possesses an ego that's inversely proportional to his huge talent.

**Idols in the biz:** Christian Dior, Yves Saint Laurent, Hussein Chalayan, Issey Miyake, John Galliano and Inno Sotto

**Thoughts on winning the Paris tilt:**

"I'd like to think that after my winning the contest, young designers became excited to join. But that also led them to thinking they had to learn the basics first. There's really no other way."

### Ivarluski Aseron, the Intellectual

**Age:** 35

**Education:** BS Nursing

**Years in the business:** 6

**Trademark:** Aseron may appear a bit shy and tentative in person, but don't ever underestimate the soft-spoken designer. His clothes, like the ones he showed during last year's "Declaration," pack a wallop. What's amazing is he achieves such an effect not by resorting to a gazillion beads and tried-and-tested visual gimmicks. If anything, Aseron's pieces have an intellectual quality to them—much like vivid words on paper and brilliant images on screen—that communicate and draw you in.

Like Lloren, Aseron is adept at manipulating soft and rigid fabrics through ad hoc draping and precision cutting. But his true genius lies in making something so complicated seem so easy to do and such a joy to behold.

**Idols in the biz:** Alexander McQueen and Inno Sotto

**On inspirations:** "I get all sorts of inspiration everywhere. Let's say I'm eating out with friends and an idea pops out, I make it a point to remember the moment and write it down as soon as possible. Otherwise, I simply forget it. I can't live without my sketchpad. Whenever I have an idea I just have to find the time to draw it."

### Dennis Lustico, the Ladies' Man

**Age:** 35

**Education:** Registered nurse

**Work-related experience:** Designing jobs "from Abad Santos (Street), to Atrium, to Bergamo"

**Years in the biz:** 8

**Trademark:** As far as we know, Lustico is no Don Juan. The tag is a tribute to his ability to come up with shapely as well as flowing numbers that instantly flatter the feminine form.

From his salad days as a designer of edgy pieces, Lustico has now found his footing designing eye candy made of chiffon, silk and organdy. Like Inno Sotto, he's also a master of coloration and draping.

Critics have accused Lustico of playing it safe lately by coming up with definite crowd-pleasers. But we'd like to think that he has simply become more realistic by making clothes that work.

**Idols in the biz:** Roland Mouret, Vivienne Westwood and Inno Sotto

**On mixing art with business:**

"The issue, which sooner or later every designer needs to come to terms with, is you're not the person wearing your clothes. It comes with maturity and also the realization that clothes are clothes. They're not pieces of sculpture, but are there to enhance the wearer."

### Joey Samson, the Architect

**Age:** 35

**Education:** BS Biology, De La Salle University

**Work-related experience:** Assistant designer to Danilo Franco

**Years in the biz:** 6

**Trademark:** Samson is known for exquisitely tailored and wearable pieces injected with unusual, sometimes off-center twists. As such, he's one of the few local names who can fashion fluid pieces for men as well as women using such stiff and often limiting fabrics as wool, denim and cotton twill.

In his desire to put more femininity into his clothes, the articulate designer, who, like his well-crafted outfits, speaks softly but with deliberate precision, has recently made a more conscious effort to study the works of French designer Madeleine Vionnet.

Like his good friend Aseron, Samson favors fabric manipulation over beadwork.

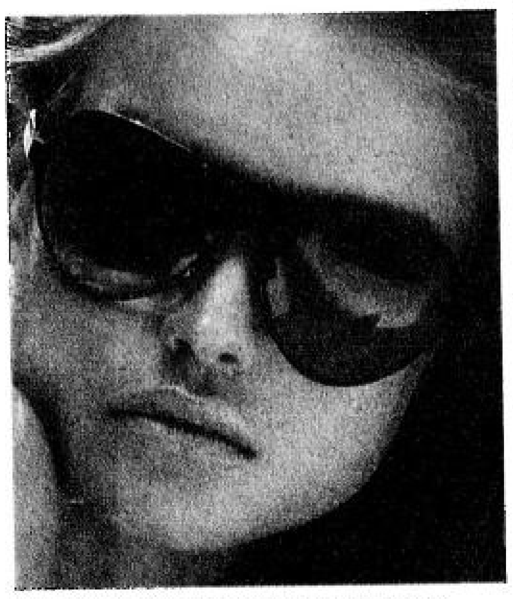
**Idols in the biz:** The Japanese designers, Madeleine Vionnet, Joji Lloren and Inno Sotto

**Why Sotto?**

"I love it when Inno says his clothes are simple, but (to me) definitely not plain. You can tell, for instance, that it's just a shift (dress). But he somehow always manages to add a bit of drama without overdoing it."

*AYV*

**WRAP STAR.** 180 degrees of style and protection with DKNY



**WING IT!** High in style with Calvin Klein aviators

*"TUTUBI"* or not *"tutubi"*? Versus sunglasses are big, bold and beautiful!

# See no evil

## Fend off harsh UV rays this summer with big, bold and beautiful sunglasses that flatter your face shape

IN AN EFFORT TO AVOID BEING recognized by the paparazzi (or at the very least, shield their eyes from the blinding glare of gazillion flash bulbs), the young Hollywood set wear their gargantuan plastic-rimmed sunglasses day and night.

**Jenni Epperson**

Their shades are practically glued to their faces, so much so that we've come to identify celebrities by them.

The eye bugs: Nicole, MK, Ashley and Paris, who prefer giant Jackie O. types; while Gwynie and Kate go for big wrap styles. The bad and the beautiful Lindsay and J.Lo favor oversize aviators.

It's a classic case of Hollywood irony, made even more compelling when you know the history of sunglasses: they were first used in China (as early as the 12th century) by judges in Chinese courts, who wore them to hide their facial expressions while questioning witnesses ("Were those atrocious slippers really a gift, or did you actually purchase them yourself? Confess or be damned!"). It was only in 1929 that sunglasses were used for actual protection of the eyes from the sun's rays.

So now we're all happily obsessed with finding our dream pair of shades. There are three things I collect: glassware (as in *baso*), luggage (it's a Freudian thing, a way of reminding myself to travel more often) and *tutubi*-type sunglasses.

I've traveled great lengths, well, more like, I ask my jetsetter friends (thanks Lounell) to travel great lengths to buy me the biggest "it" sunnies available. My current obsession is the Dior Glossy 1. I first saw it in Vogue (Kate Moss models it): they're so humongous that they look like an eclipse on my face and I love it! I had to snap them up in both black and beige.

### Sunny side of life

It's easy to go nuts when you're in the market for a pair of sunglasses. Role-playing possibilities are endless! Do you want to be the Hemophage hero, Violet Song jat Shariff? Ms Don't-Mess-With-Me Trinity? Your chic-ness, Audrey Hepburn? One of the Baywatch boobs, er, babes?

As you stand before that mirror, pouting and smiling, wondering if that pair will be good enough for scoping out the hotties on the beach or on a crowded city street, or hiding your hangover with just the right mix of chic and disdain, here are a few things to keep in mind.

### Balancing act

As a general rule, you should get a frame that offsets the shape of your face. In other words, go the other direction. Round face=square frames; square face=rounded frames.

When it comes to balancing the size of your face

SEE/ E4

**HARD TO GET.** Ms Moss may be easier to track down these days than my current obsession—Dior's Glossy I sunglasses.

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## brag board

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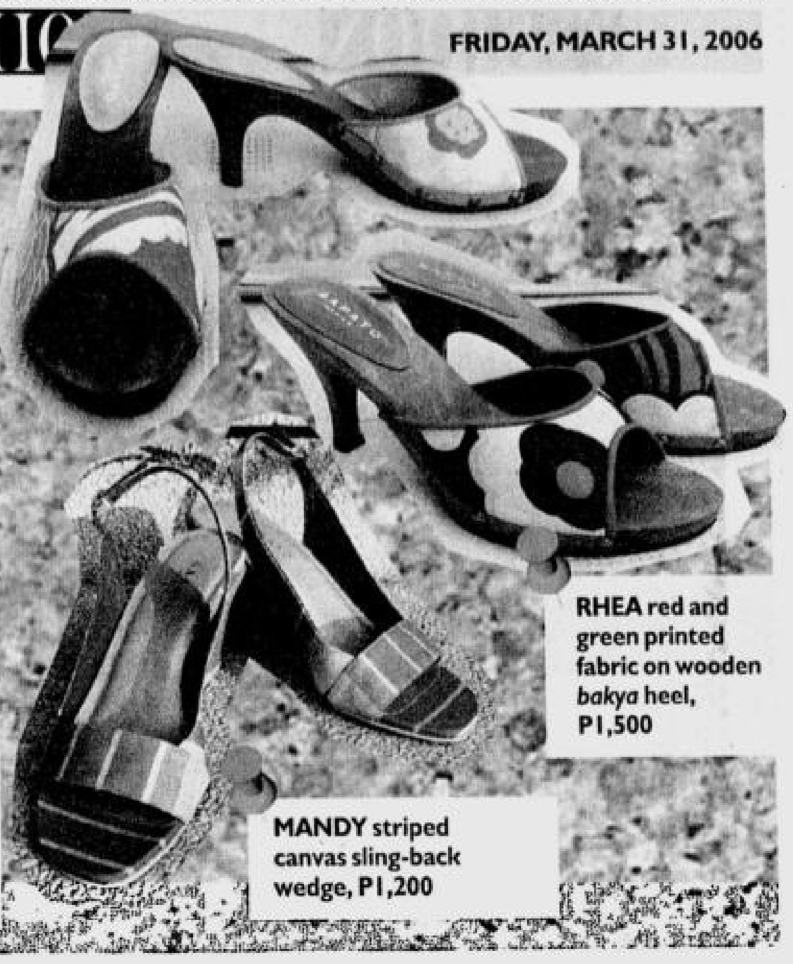

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# See no evil

From page E2

however, it's not about going the other direction—you should go for sameness instead. If you've got a small face, go medium delicate frames. If you've got a large face with dramatic features, let a larger frame even out your features out.

For the devil-may-care, it doesn't matter if your face is as small as a bottle cap, or as round as a *bilao*, go ahead and wear your mom's vintage oversize shades. You may not look like Jackie but with an attitude like Marilyn, you're sure to hook your John.

### I gotta wear shades

Doesn't matter why you wear them: whether to be incognito, to get recognized or most important, to protect your eyes from the Big Bad Sun. Donning a pair of sunglasses instantly adds a shade of mystery and a touch of glamour to your predictable life.

So look at the world through dark-colored glasses. Sometimes it's better to see things for not what they really are—and you can scope out all the hot guys while you're at it.

*E-mail jfashion@inquirer.com.ph*

## SUPER SHADES FOR YOUR SHAPE

**DON'T** be square, try Calvin Klein shades.

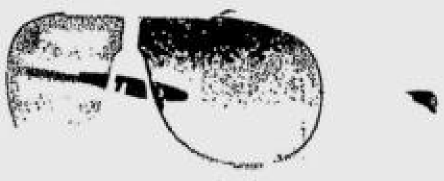
### Round

Your mother says you'll be thankful for your round face when you're old and wrinkled and gravity kicks in. But right now, you're feeling less pretty and more like a walking *ensaymada*. To fight the baked-goods blues, shop around for a frame that's wider than it is long, and angular to counterbalance the softness of your round face. It'll give you that thinner, longer and narrower effect (sans the surgery).

**IF VERSUS** sunglasses are good enough for Gwynie, they're good enough for you.

### Square

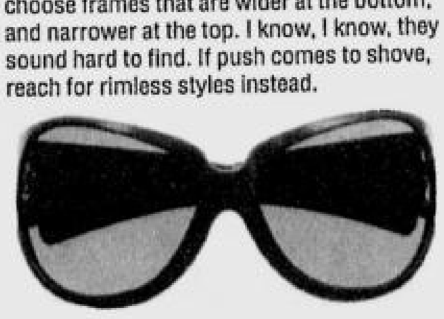
The lantern jaw, the broad forehead and the square face may be equal in length and width, but they're angular (think Gwyneth Paltrow). Rounded frames and ovals that have more width than height should soften you up.



**DKNY** gold-rimmed aviators

### Heart

Your broad forehead, strong cheekbones and narrow chin put you in the same category as happy birthday-singing Marilyn Monroe and new Versace vixen Halle Berry. You wear your heart not on your sleeve, but on your face. Again, go the other way and choose frames that are wider at the bottom, and narrower at the top. I know, I know, they sound hard to find. If push comes to shove, reach for rimless styles instead.



**CALVIN** Klein oversized sunglasses

### Oval

These are the women you want to kill. They look good in any hairstyle, they can choose any kind of frame they want, and I'm not wasting any more words on these utterly unfair creatures!

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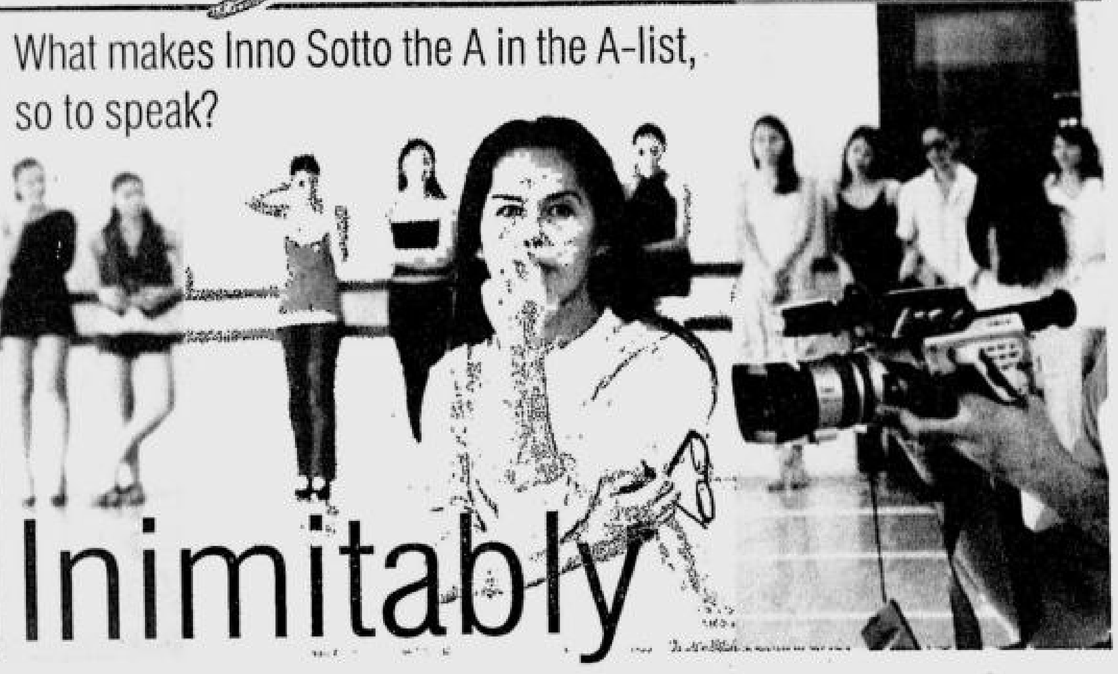
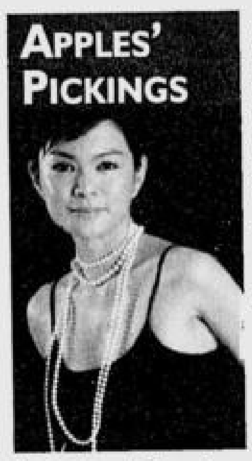
FASHION

What makes Inno Sotto the A in the A-list, so to speak?



# Inimitably Inno

Photos by Jo Ann Bitagcol



APPLES' PICKINGS

**Apples Aberin-Sadhwani**

IF THERE'S ONE THING I learned in my years in the fashion industry, it's the fact that it takes more than just great talent to succeed in an industry populated by extremely creative artists. And what's even harder is staying on top of the game.

I've seen designers come with great fanfare and go with hardly a thump. They can be current favorites one season and history in six months' time. The industry can be very unforgiving, and a designer is usually just as good as his last show. That's why I can't help but admire Inno Sotto, who's been on top of the heap, the A in A-list, so to speak, for many years now.

Several factors make Inno the best in his field. Besides having genuine talent, he also knows who he is and therefore, has identity, which is reflected in his work. When you see his designs, you know that it's by him just as you know that a particular dress is by Oscar de la Renta or Valentino.

That's not to say that he comes up with the same thing over and over. Fact is, he never fails to evolve and surprise. I've done most of his shows since I started modeling, and I always look forward to wearing and viewing his latest creations, knowing that I'm in for another visual and tactile treat.

What's more, and I've said this time and again, he is a perfectionist who inspires others to do their best at all times. There's no halfway house where Inno is concerned. Every single aspect of a production is given due attention, just as every stitch, hem, drape or bustle is executed seamlessly.

He never fails to show a new collection at least once a year, which is another factor that elevates and separates him from the rest. After "Beloved," his much-applauded show that featured a surreal, postcard-perfect stage, dramatic music and opera-inspired collection, he's set to show his latest pieces via "Allegra, Under the Pink Sky of the Secret Garden," a fashion show that will offer contemporary, romantic pieces set against lush foliage and complemented by 1950s standards performed by a band.

Inno is currently in the thick of preparations, so I trailed him to try to see why he remains Manila's top designer. From recordings in MXN studios to fittings in his atelier to workshops in Steps dance studio, here's a sneak peek into Inno's world as he prepares for yet another rousing success.

INIMITABLY/ F2

MODEL Ria Bolivar dons a romantic tulle confection.

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# Catwalk queens

Manila's current top models all share that invaluable yet indefinable X-factor

By Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

WHAT DOES IT take to be a top model? Certain physical attributes like height, good bone structure and an interesting (not just pretty) face are obvious prerequisites.

But there has to be something more than all that. Anyone who's tall and skinny can probably be a mannequin, but how does one stand out from the crowd?

That indefinable X-factor is what separates the boys from the men, or in this case, the divas from the wannabes. Directors, designers and talent agents are always on the lookout for that elusive trait. It's not something that can be easily explained, but the bottom line is this: It's either you have it or you don't.

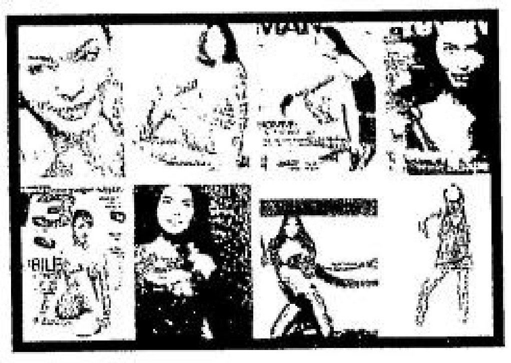
On a more practical note, top director Jackie C. Aquino says that besides the above-mentioned factors, a model can achieve catwalk-queen status if she is professional in all her dealings and above all, humble and grounded. The veteran, in-demand director also stresses the importance of constant reinvention and the ability to adapt to different situations while staying true to one's self, in order to establish staying power in an industry where the only thing constant is change.

Here are some of Manila's top models, A-listers all, who've made their mark in the fickle world of fashion.

### The Supermodel

Open any fashion mag, check out the gigantic billboards along Edsa or turn on your telly and you're sure to get a glimpse of Isabel Roces, who is probably Manila's current top model. This prolific mannequin has been featured on 18 magazine covers and has appeared in five commercials and four ad campaigns, from 2001 to present. She's also done fashion shows for local designers like Rhett Eala, Cesar Gaupo and Inno Sotto, and foreign labels such as Ferragamo, Cartier, DKNY and Zara, to name a few. She was rightfully named MTV Model of the Year in 2005.

To date, Isabel has branched out to TV work as the host of "Living Space," an interior-design program that airs on the Lifestyle channel.



### The Muse

Ask any designer or editor to name their top models and you'll surely hear them mention Ria Bolivar. Apparently, this exotic, ultra-slim, long-limbed mannequin is on the fast track to fashion stardom. She has been modeling since 2002, first in her hometown of Iloilo and then in Manila when she joined the Best Model Search 2003. She was awarded first runner-up.

She constantly graces the pages of various magazines and broadsheets and looks sleek, chic and classy on the ramp. As a bonus, she is always professional and easy to work with.

### Tri-media mannequin

Nicolette Bell got her big break when she joined the local Elite Model Search in 1999 and was awarded Most Photogenic. A whirlwind of commercial, ramp and print work followed soon after, and it has not stopped since.

The gamine charmer, who's possibly as thin as Twiggy, has done countless shows for both local designers and foreign brands. She has also endorsed homegrown brands like Tweeds and Bench Fix. At present, she's involved in the development and marketing of Label, her own line of fashion-forward footwear.

### The Ingenue

Although she has yet to make major strides in the industry, Maan Bayot definitely has what it takes to be a fashion star—in the looks department, at the very least. With the right exposure and guidance, plus determination and street smarts on her part, she can become one of Manila's top models in no time.

### Couture queens

Jo Ann Bitagcol (left) is definitely an industry favorite. Her strong, unconventional, sometimes androgynous look makes her stand out. She walks the ramp with her own brand of edge and has a style, on and off the catwalk, that's all her own—something that's sorely lacking in most models nowadays.

She was named Mega magazine's model of the year in 2000 and one of its Women to Watch in 2006. After doing the Asian circuit and modeling for most, if not all of Manila's top designers, she now does photography in both the fashion and advertising fields.

Another couture favorite is statuesque Ana Lloren (right), who has done a whole slew of trunk shows for prestigious labels like Christian Dior, Hermes, Versace, Escada and the like in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur. She has also modeled for Asian top designers like Zang Toi of Malaysia, Biyan of Indonesia and Inno Sotto of the Philippines.

As an offshoot of her vast exposure to fashion, Anna has branched out to jewelry design and fashion show production, under the tutelage of director Ariel Lozada.

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# Inimitably Inno

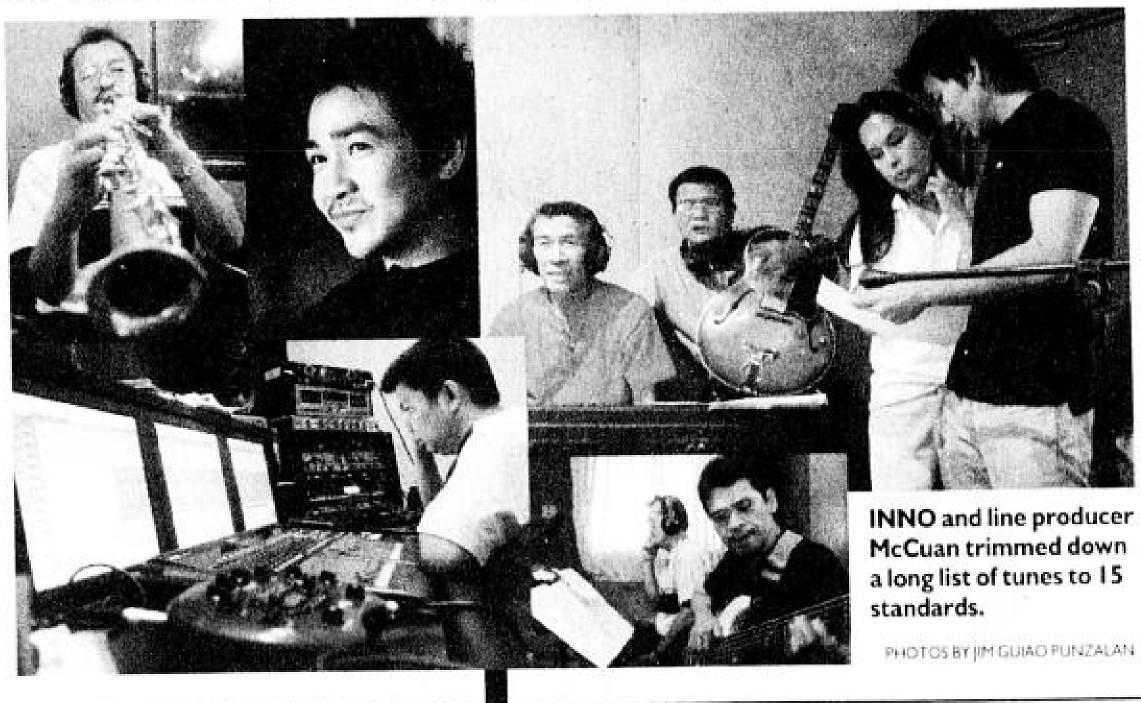
From page F1

### Day 1: The music

"Imagine the party scene in 'Sabrina' with guests dressed to the nines and a big band playing standard music, and you get a pretty good idea about the feel and ambience I want to create," says Inno. Apparently, the soundtrack is one of the most important factors in pulling together the whole concept of the show. So today, Inno is busy recording versions of 1950s standards like "Two for the Road," "More" and "Moonlight Serenade."

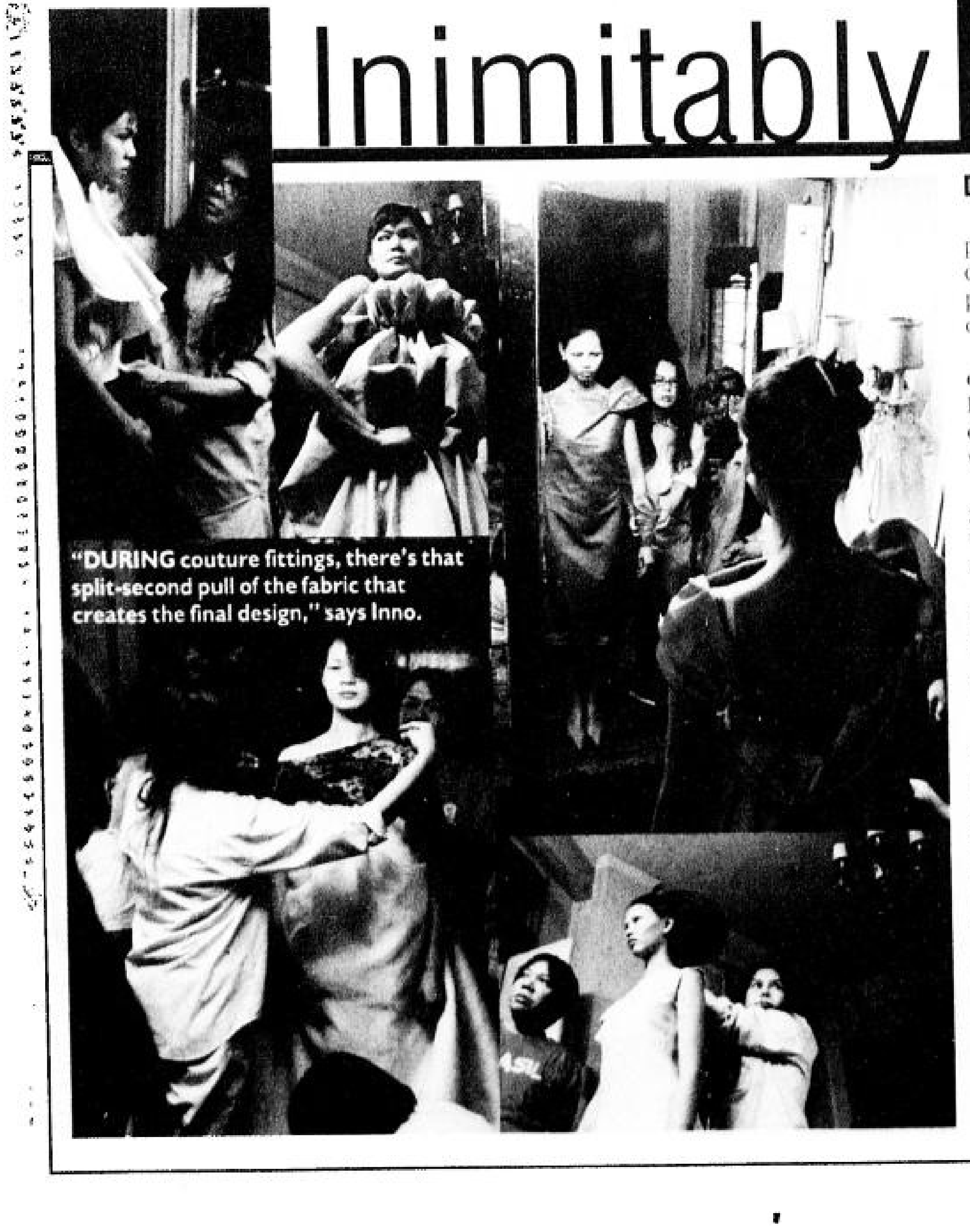
With the help of McCuan, line and segment producer for the live and recorded soundtrack, Inno was able to painstakingly whittle down his song choices to 15 standards. "That's probably one of the hardest tasks. Plus the fact that it took seven sessions to perfect and record the music," says McCuan.

Incidentally, the recording is but an "indulgence" of sorts, as this will be used for rehearsal purposes only. Still, it boils down to Inno not leaving any detail to chance.



**INNO** and line producer McCuan trimmed down a long list of tunes to 15 standards.

PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN



**"DURING** couture fittings, there's that split-second pull of the fabric that creates the final design," says Inno.

### Day 2: The fitting

Music from the previous day's recording session is softly playing in the background in Inno's European-inspired drawing room. Wispy Ria Bolivar and exotic Jeng Cuyugan patiently wait for their turn as I eagerly anticipate a glimpse of Inno's latest works.

"Allegra, Under the Pink Sky of the Secret Garden" is obviously Inno's current state of being. "Allegra" is happiness in Italian, the color pink signifies happiness to Inno, and the secret garden symbolizes the magical venue where the show will be held.

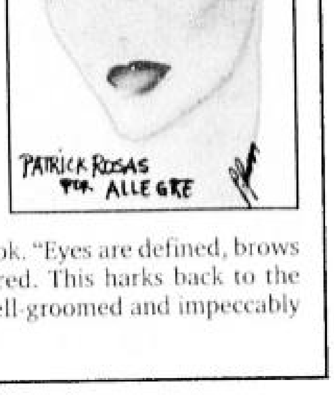
The mood is infectious and soon everyone is, like Inno, glowing with excitement. We all gasp with pleasure as Inno takes out his collection of precious Chantilly lace to drape and cut as he pleases.

The collection is beyond pretty, and the rich materials billow with life at Inno's expert touch. It is dreamy, romantic and simply breathtaking.

### The look

"With Inno, it's always a collaboration. When he told me that he wanted a very romantic feel with beautiful clothes, I recommended a simply beautiful but still glamorous look," says Patrick Rosas.

Together with his creative team composed of Marlon Suarez and Eric Maningat, the A-list makeup maven will create a very strong yet feminine look. "Eyes are defined, brows are soft and lips are a vibrant red. This harks back to the good life when everyone was well-groomed and impeccably dressed," adds Patrick.



### Day 3: The workshop

Every Sunday since the end of January, Inno, Patrick and director Ariel Lozada have been conducting modeling workshops to discover and train new models and tweak more established ones.

"Inno is a paragon of beauty and eloquence and given that, the models should be able to live up to that quality. They have to be able to give life and justice to his creations. These workshops will hopefully help them do that, and, at the same time, update their style of movement," says Ariel.

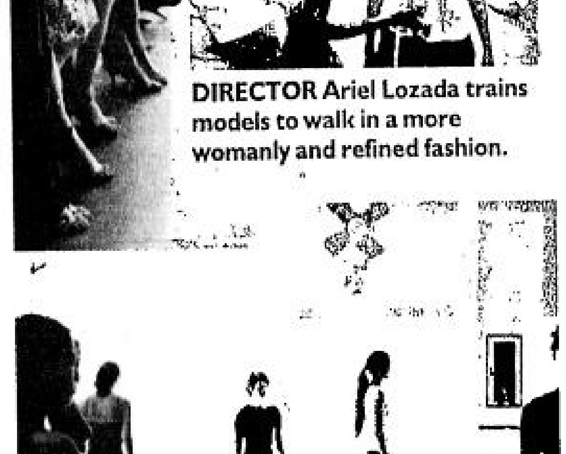
So, today I find myself with 20 or so other models learning or relearning how to walk with refinement and ease. Other senior models like Suyene Chi-Sia and Lala Flores gamely go through the workshop with me, while extremely tall, extremely skinny and extremely young models (gorgeous Kim is all of 16 years old) also seriously work on walking in a straight line and swaying their nonexistent hips.

Let me just say that Jeng Cuyugan is a definite standout and will probably be a top ramp model anytime soon.

I'm told that Inno is spending for all these workshops. Just another illustration of his legendary drive for perfection.

*E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph*

*"Allegra, Under the Pink Sky of the Secret Garden" is brought to you by PLDT and Smart Infinity in cooperation with BPI Privilege Banking, Belo Medical Group, Ayala Land Inc., La Mer, ISM, Rustan's Essenses, Philippine Tatler together with Landco Pacific Corporation, Metro Pacific Corporation and Home Studio Inc.*



**DIRECTOR** Ariel Lozada trains models to walk in a more womanly and refined fashion.

SET DESIGN ARCHITECT RAMON ANTONIO
SHOW CONCEPT AND ART DIRECTOR INNO SOTTO
DIRECTOR ARIEL LOZADA
MAKE UP PATRICK ROSAS, ERIC MANINGAT, MARLON SUAREZ
MAQUILLAGE CHANEL HAIRPIECES BERGMANN
SEGMENT AND LINE PRODUCER FOR RECORDER
AND LIVE SHOW SOUNDTRACK MCCUAN

# Fashion-forward week

## Philippine Fashion Week will run at the NBC Tent, March 31-April 4, and at the Glorietta Activity Center, April 5-9

From page F4

time, designers had altogether stopped staging big shows to present their collections, after losing their market to foreign brands.

"It was my way of thanking the designers," he explains. "They were my livelihood before. It was my turn to give back." (PFW is among the few, if not the only one, of its kind in the world where designers show at no cost.)

The series was barely on its third year when sponsors stopped coming in. Though throwing in the towel was the easier option, Espino, now with Audie by his side, decided to stay on. By their twosome, they knocked on doors to get sponsors, most times ending up with calloused knuckles.

Espino says sponsors would rather spend on concerts and celebrity mall shows. Even retailers prefer to hire an image model than stage regular shows to present their products.

### No state support

After nine years, he has yet to hear from, or approach, the government.

"I could've asked [the government for help] a long time ago," Espino notes. "I did the wedding of Jackie Ejercito, and then the Arroyos. But it's hard. When the administration changes, the project is gone.

"Thailand spends $50 million for their fashion week... They're not just promoting their beautiful beaches." Other countries in the region, like Hong Kong, Malaysia, India, Singapore, have also been aggressive in promoting fashion, and the world is starting to take notice.

Though the current administration has been bullish in promoting tourism overseas, the country's budget for tourist promotions is paltry compared to its neighbors' fashion-week budgets alone. And it will be a long shot before fashion promotion becomes its priority.

However, Tourism Sec. Ace Durano has told the INQUIRER he is willing to sit down with the organizers to determine what the department can do to help in the future, particularly in sponsoring foreign media and personalities to attend the shows.

"When I learned the DOT secretary was young, I felt happy thinking he might be more open-minded," Espino says. "I was doing shows abroad with DOT before and I was questioned for showing bridal gowns. Their target tourists were the Japanese who were coming here to get married! They didn't see it as a viable money maker."

### Parochial issues

Of course, Espino knows local designers have yet to deal with parochial issues before they can aspire for international attention.

"Some are quite unprofessional. They don't submit sketches on time. Others, just because they're popular, think they're exempt. How can we classify you for the show when we don't see your clothes? We ask them for their forecast, they say 'yes' with an exclamation mark. Then they'll show clothes that have been shot for a magazine 2-3 months before.

"Then there's *patalbugan, taguan nang taguan*. They bring only the lining for the fitting! The show suffers. Some are very good illustrators, but when it comes to construction..." On those who are only in to shock, "they should put an end to that," Espino adds. "The goal is to sell, and in order to sell, you have to be sensible. It's that basic."

Ultimately, he says there's a wealth of talent among local designers. "They have the ideas but no money to back it up so they're incapacitated. They have a hard time putting together 10 clothes as it is, and you can't see a designer's vision and line with only 10 clothes. That's not a collection." Participants at the PFW show an average of 5-10 pieces.

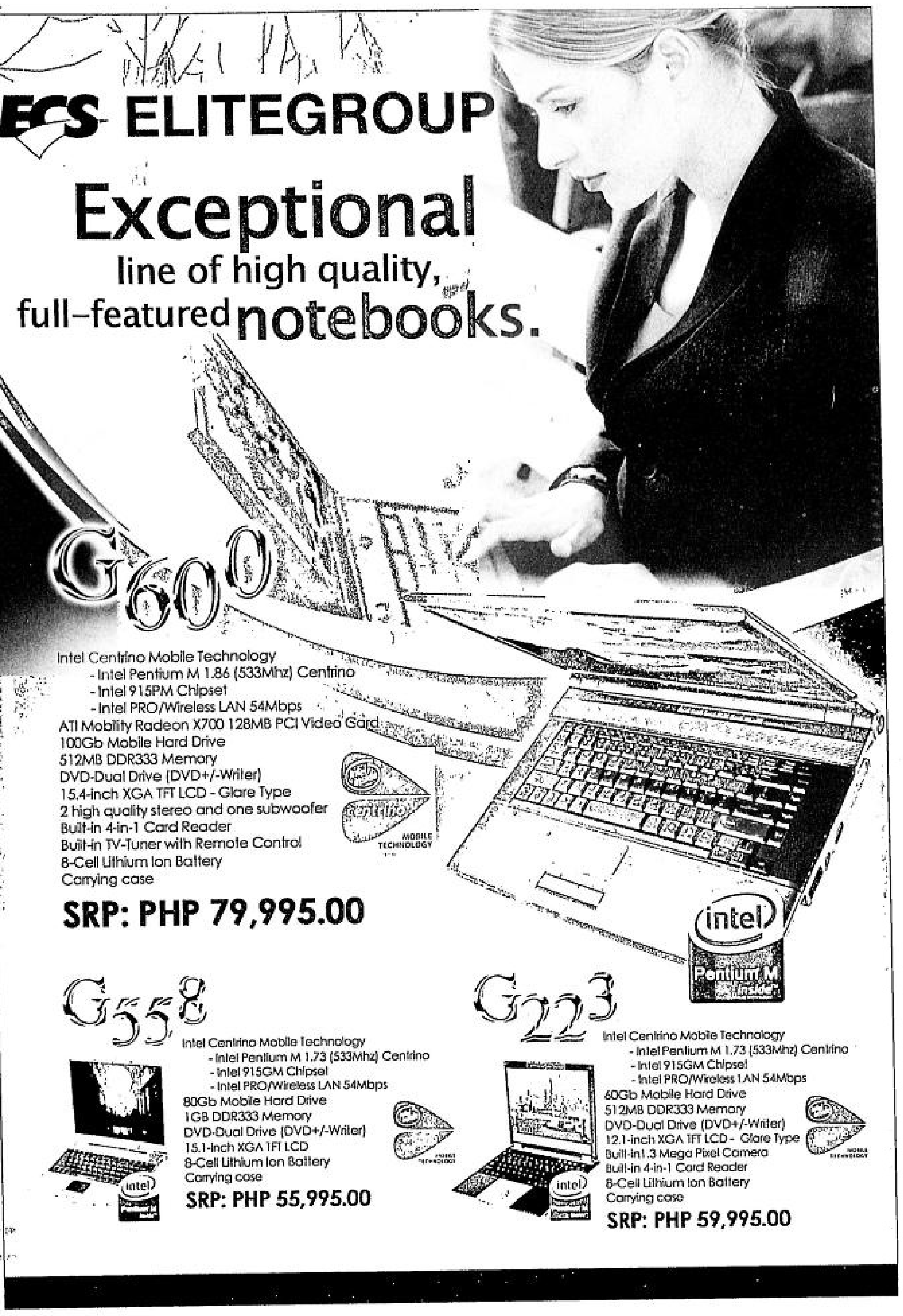
"The designers should be responsible on their own so once we get government support, we can invite international press... Sass and Bide (of Australia) started in their local fashion week. When Vogue UK came in and Harrods read the review, they ordered. Now they're in Paris and New York."

That's, of course, the promise of a good review. In a struggling industry like this, Espino agrees reviews are there, in part, to weed out the good from the bad.

Espino believes reviews had been instrumental to getting more sensible designs this year.

As for the proof, the country has the next 10 days to find out.

*E-mail cmoral@inquirer.com.ph*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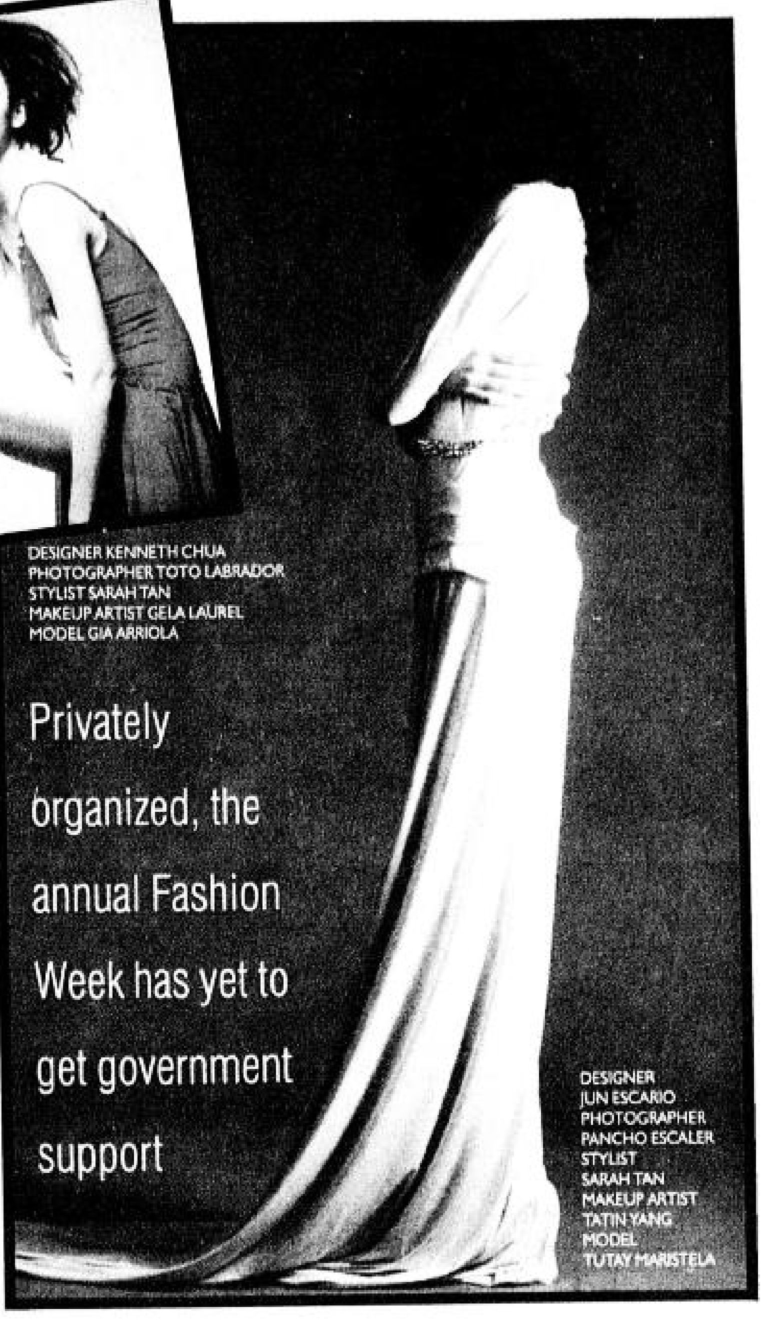
PHOTOGRAPHER
DIX PEREZ
STYLIST
STEF CABAL
MAKEUP ARTIST
TATIN YANG
MODEL
NIÑA NAVAL

DESIGNER ALEX PIGAO
PHOTOGRAPHER XANDER ANGELES
STYLIST JANET DELA FUENTE/STYLE LAB
MAKEUP ARTIST BERN ABELEDA/STYLE LAB
MODEL CHRISCEL AGUDO

DESIGNER SHANON PAMAONG
PHOTOGRAPHER VICTOR CONSUNJI
STYLIST CORINE ALEGRE
MAKEUP ARTIST LEO POSADAS AND TEAM
MODEL MARJAY RAMIREZ

DESIGNER RAJO LAUREL
PHOTOGRAPHER TOTO LABRADOR
STYLIST SARAH TAN
MAKEUP ARTIST GELA LAUREL
MODEL CHRISTINE BAYER



DESIGNER KENNETH CHUA
PHOTOGRAPHER TOTO LABRADOR
STYLIST SARAH TAN
MAKEUP ARTIST GELA LAUREL
MODEL GIA ARRIOLA

Privately organized, the annual Fashion Week has yet to get government support

DESIGNER
JUN ESCARIO
PHOTOGRAPHER
PANCHO ESCALER
STYLIST
SARAH TAN
MAKEUP ARTIST
TATIN YANG
MODEL
TUTAY MARISTELA

# Fashion-forward week

**By Cheche V. Moral**

IN SPITE, OR BECAUSE, of two men's unflagging efforts, Philippine Fashion Week (PFW) has thrived and is well on its ninth season as the annual 10-day series of shows opens tonight at the NBC Tent in Taguig.

From the 88 designers who showed their works last year, the roster has grown to 110 this year. The improved number shows that designers recognize the series has been effective in promoting their work and widening their market.

That increase, however, is only superficial since the country needs to establish a true local fashion industry and a steady market for Filipino designers. And Joey Espino, co-producer and progenitor of the PFW series, acknowledges that.

Fashion week, of course, is a global concept whose aim isn't only to present trends but also to provide a marketplace where designers and retailers can present their wares to buyers, not just locally but perhaps more crucial, overseas.

While that is, in fact, the Espinos' objective (Joey's partner in Runway Productions is brother Audie), their limited resources have only been able to take them so far. And that's only so far as keeping the annual shows alive.

However small, "the main goal is for the designers to sell," Espino says. "Otherwise when the goods from China come in, Philippine fashion is a goner."

He has soldiered on in spite of the difficulties because "if I don't do it, who will? My only options are to do it in a very limited version, or not do it altogether. For nine years, I've not been getting paid my director's fee… We're the organizers and also the producers, so we answer for everything."

Espino's motives sound admirably altruistic, and it's vital to look back where he's coming from.

## Giving back

Nine years ago, Espino, a fashion show director, was hired by a mall chain to stage shows in a Makati mall in the hopes of renewing interest in local retail. Patterned after the weekly shows held in such big malls as the Landmark in Hong Kong, the project was indeed promising. Espino would also later include a handful of designers in the shows. At the

9 YEARS/F3

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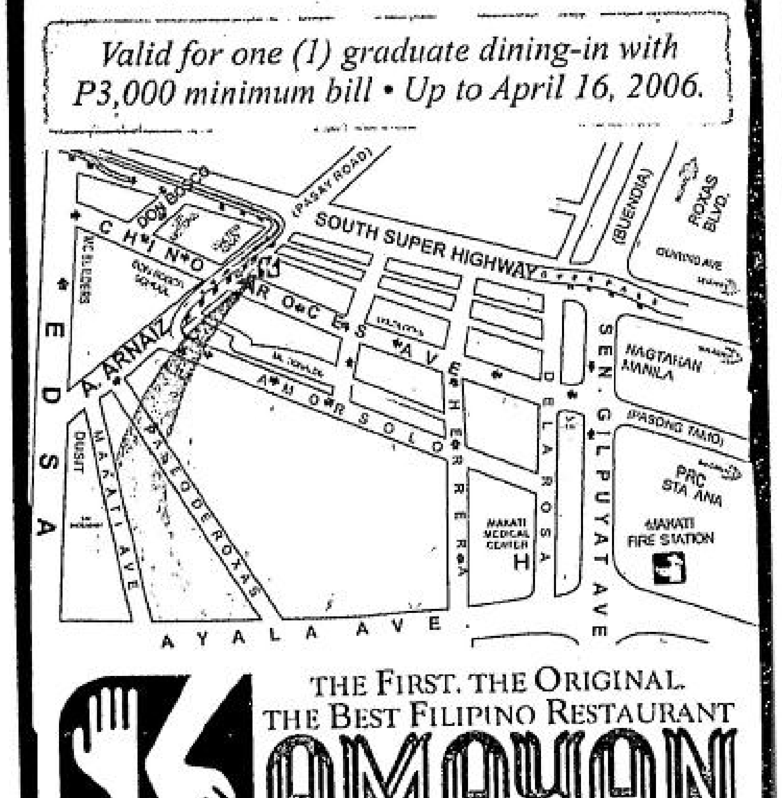

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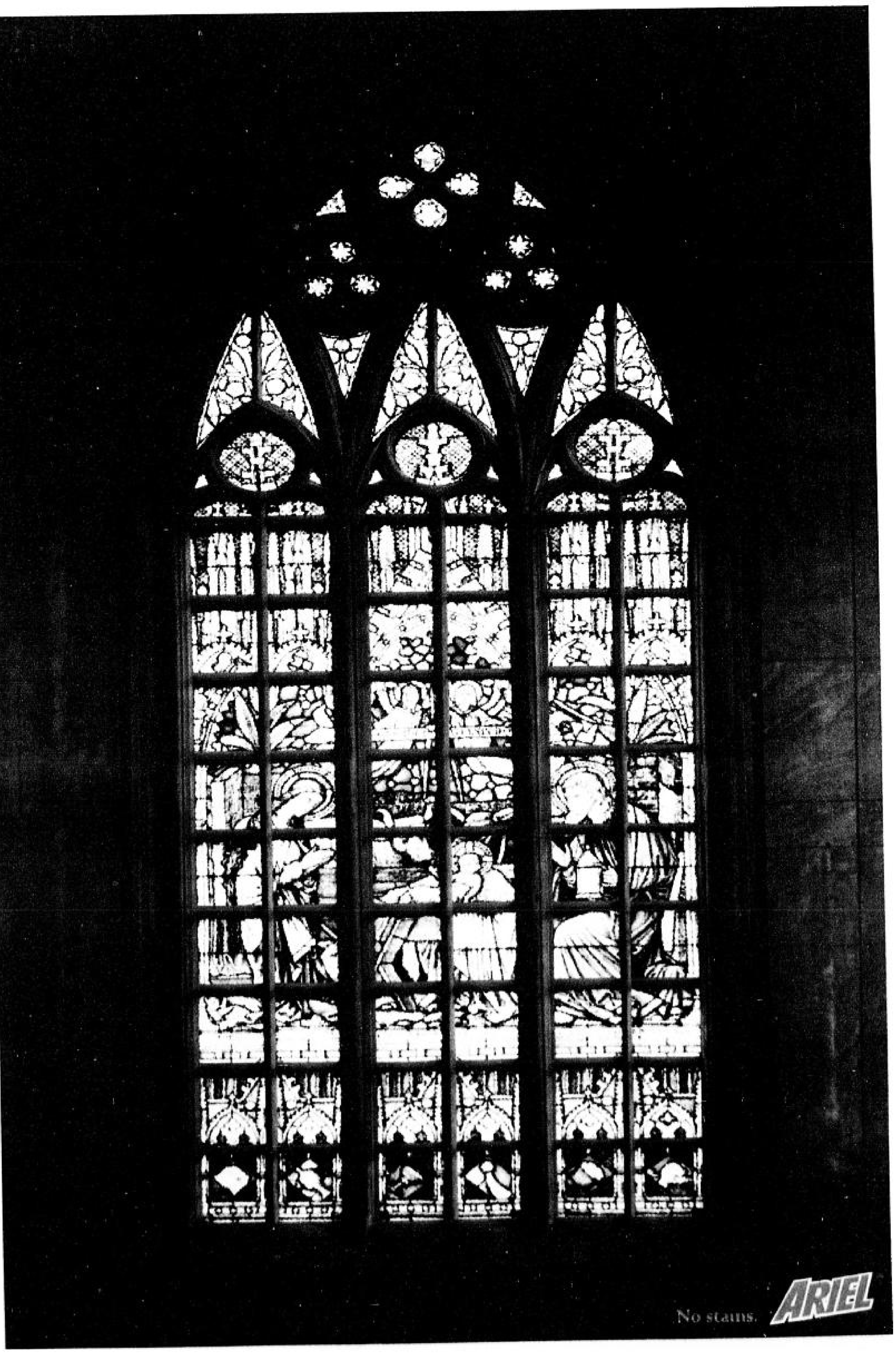

# LIFESTYLE

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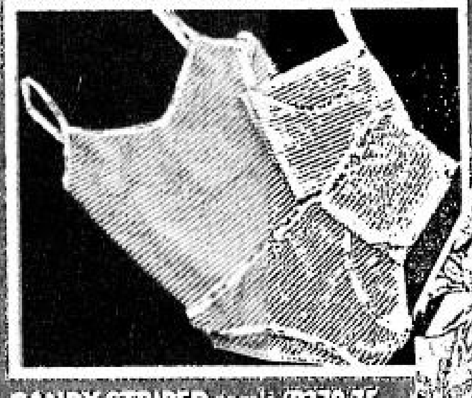
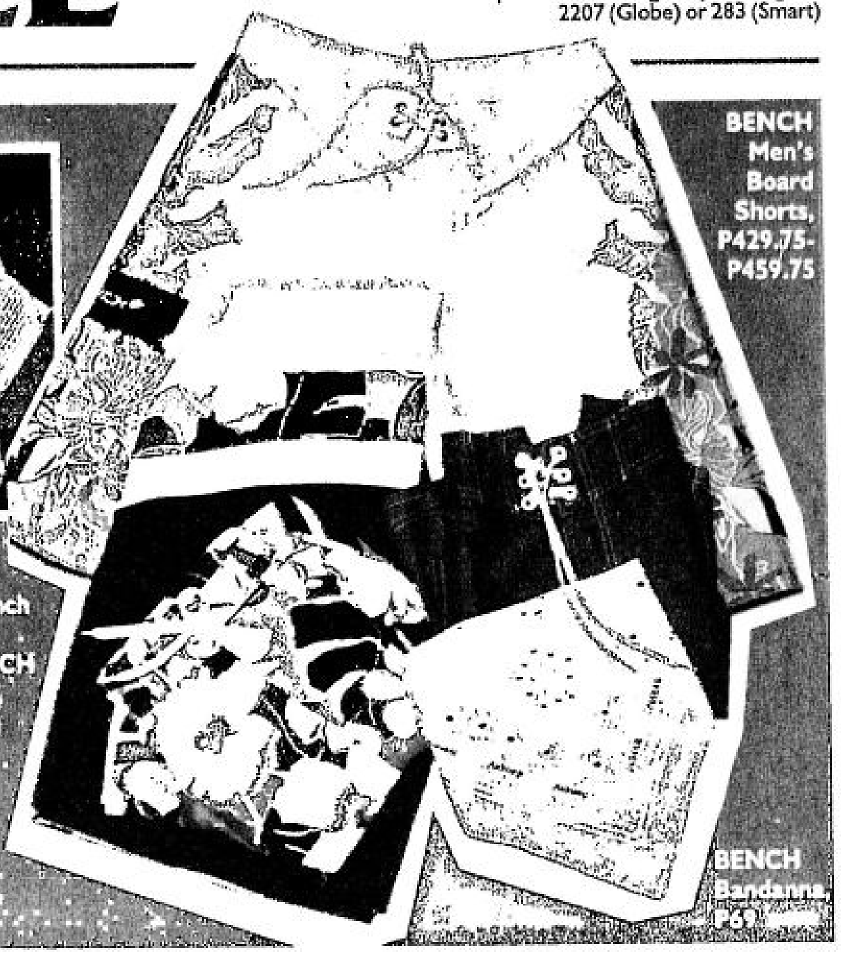
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

**BENCH** boxer briefs, P249.75 each

**BEACH** shorts from Herbench, P399.75 each



**CANDY-STRIPED** camis (P279.75 each) and matching mid-rise bikini panties (P149.75 each), from Herbench



**BENCH** Men's Board Shorts, P429.75-P459.75

**BENCH** Bandanna, P69

**KINDERBENCH** baseball caps, P199.75 (left) and P219.75

# Light and intimate this summer

## Bench and Human have got you covered on this season of skin

By Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Betoy Johnson and Rudy Esperas

IT'S 36°C OUTSIDE, AND IT'S hard to keep your cool when you feel you're nearing combustion. The hellish heat makes you long for escape. Any place but here!

Then you travel to a place where it's -13°C several days before it's officially spring and, once again, you wish you were back in the same place you were trying to flee from: the warm comfort of home.

As people used to living in cold places would say, you don't really feel the bitterness of cold if you're properly dressed—layers upon layers of synthetic fabrics, wools, and cashmeres and furs, if you can afford them.

It's the same thing when living in the tropics. In fact, you have to count your blessings: We don't need to swathe ourselves in expensive animal pelts and skins to survive the searing temperatures.

The solution isn't so extreme as tearing your clothes off (though when you're at the end of your delirious wits, that may be tempting), but as simple as picking the appropriate clothing fabrics for the weather. You shed off tight, stuffy clothes and go for looser cuts. You're going for ease, after all.

Top fabric of choice for summer, of course, is cotton, cotton and cotton. It's affordable and widely available, and used in everything from underwear to outerwear to bath towels. It's soft, comfortable and drapes well. Since the material retains color well, cotton clothes come in every imaginable print, which is just the answer to those looking to quench their color-parched summer wardrobes.

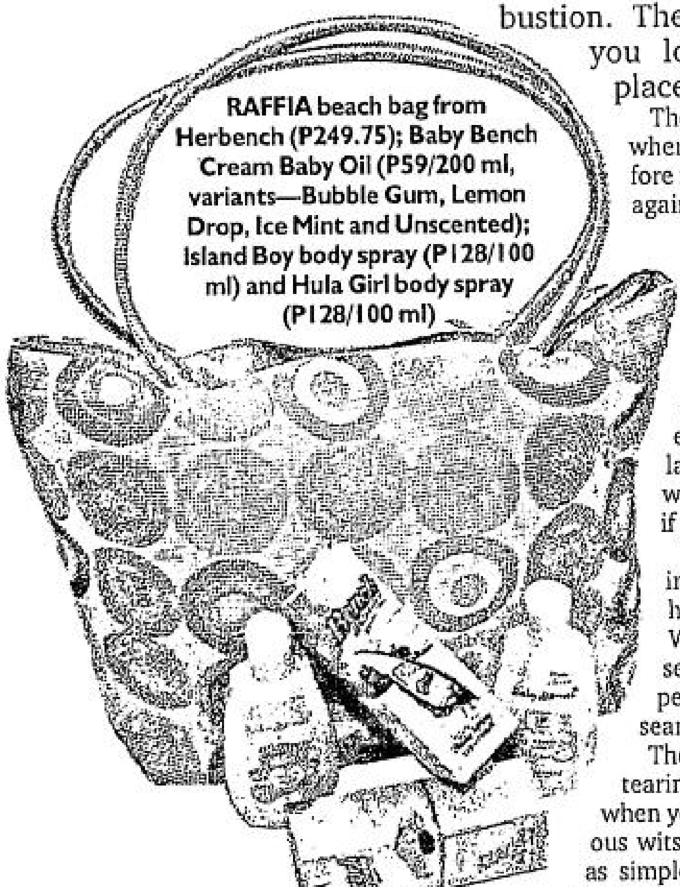
At fashion and lifestyle shops like Bench and Human, they got you, well, covered head to foot with their Summer 2006 collections.

For the ladies, there are all-cotton cami and panty sets, in stripes or with lace trimmings.

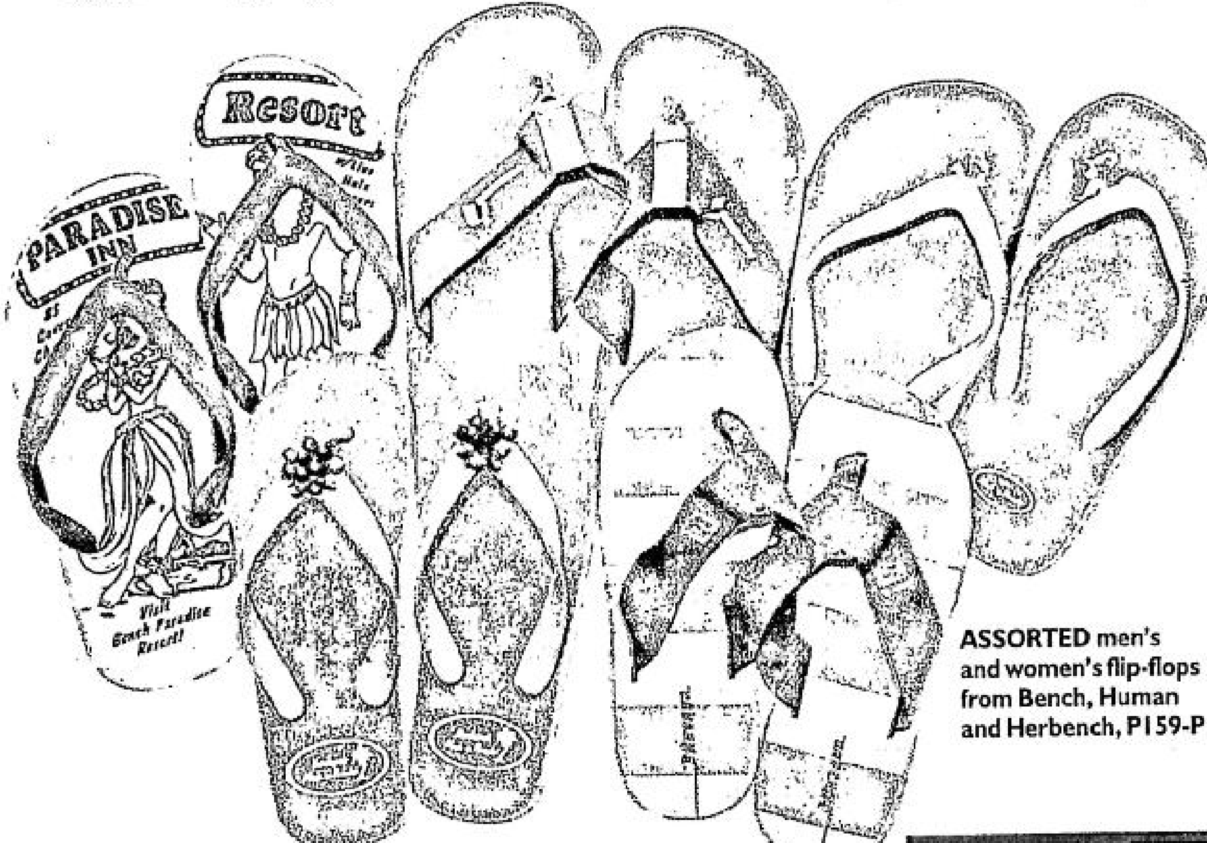
The men can opt for classic briefs or boxers, in bold stripes or solid colors, also all made of cotton.

Human and Bench each have new collections of bloom-printed beach and board shorts. To ward off the sun's glare, they have new sun visors and trusty baseball caps, and reversible fishermen's hats. There are also multicolored flip-flops for every day or for those trips to the beach. Some styles from Herbench also have bead accents.

Bench also introduces its cream baby oils, and two new fragrances for summer—Hula Girl and Island Boy.

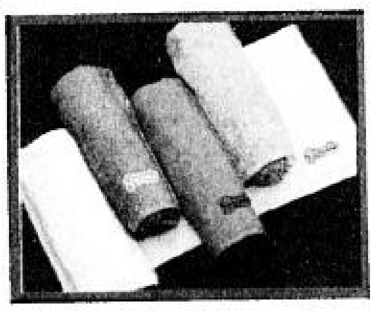


**RAFFIA** beach bag from Herbench (P249.75); Baby Bench Cream Baby Oil (P59/200 ml, variants—Bubble Gum, Lemon Drop, Ice Mint and Unscented); Island Boy body spray (P128/100 ml) and Hula Girl body spray (P128/100 ml)



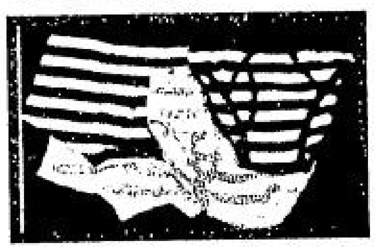
**ASSORTED** men's and women's flip-flops from Bench, Human and Herbench, P159-P199

**LACE-TRIMMED** camisoles (P329.75 each) with matching low-rise panties (P169.75), all from Herbench



**BENCH & Bath** 100-percent cotton towels, P399 each. Available colors: cyber yellow, insignia blue, light pink, rococo red, sweet lavender, cerulean, wild lime, holly green, midnight blue and steel gray

**BENCH** reversible fishermen's hat, P239.75 each



**STRIPED** boxer briefs (P199.75 each) and classic briefs (P169.75 each), all from Bench

Hmn's
SUGAR CRISP
Fresh

**ASSORTED** bags with pop art designs from Human, P249-P599

**SUN VISORS** from Bench (P179.75, left) and Human (P179)

**BEACH** shorts for the ladies, P429.75, from Human

**MEN'S** beach shorts from Human, P429.75 each

**HERBENCH** V-neck cami, P279.75, and mid-rise hipster panties, P149.75

BCH
BASEBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

**BASEBALL** caps from Bench and Human, P199.75-P229

ON BIANCA and Angelica: "Made in Paradise" graphic tee, P329.75; low-rise hipster with hula monogram print, P159.75

# Bench's angels

By Pam Pastor

BIANCA KING AND ANGELICA PANGANIBAN have a number of things in common. Youth. Good looks. Careers in show business. The passion for what they do. And now, their roles as the new image models of Bench Body.

Along with Alessandra de Rossi, they will be representing the brand's teenage segment. "Aside from being two of the hottest young stars in local show business, the two reflect the fashion sense and style of the brand, which makes the market to easily draw association from them," the people from Bench said.

On this page, the gorgeous pair models pieces from Bench Body's Summer 2006 Collection—bright colors, various designs and nature-inspired tropical looks that fit Bench's "Made in Paradise" summer campaign.

## Bianca King

Bianca King isn't new to modeling. She started at 14, posing for fashion editorials in glossies. Although offers to enter show business immediately flooded her, she chose school first, waiting until she finished her freshman year in college before giving acting a shot.

Although she originally just thought of show business as a summer job, it soon turned into more than that. "I'm passionate about proving my worth and talent in the business and getting good projects," she says.

Bianca is enjoying life as an actress. "The best thing is that I feel I help so many people in so many different ways. It helps me mature and become a wiser person in dealing with people, money, gossip, pain, so many things. I help other people through the little things I do on TV and film. Someone actually appreciates it and gets entertained. I make them happy by doing what I love doing."

She's also glad that it has given her the chance to help her family. "Since I started earning my own money, I totally stopped being a spoiled brat to my parents and now I feel I have to return it all to them. Not because they ask me to or I have to, but because I don't want to be selfish with the blessings I receive now."

LACE with mesh V-neck strap tee, P249.75, and low-rise hipster with hula monogram print, P159.75

Bianca is currently part of the new season of GMA 7's "Love to Love" and is shooting a movie with Mikey Arroyo. She has a lot of plans and hopes for her career. "'Dyesebel' would be a nice project to do. I'm such a water baby and beach bum that I feel I'd be perfect for the role. I always secretly thought when I was a kid that I was mermaid when I would jump off my dad's boat in the middle of the sea, no matter how deep the water was."

Unlike kids who grew up in show business, Bianca has had to deal with things that her peers who have lived in the public eye do not have to face. "Not having grown up in show biz and going to school in Alabang, I'm sorely misunderstood. There's just this wild misconception of me being so *sosyal* and stuck-up that sometimes people tend to believe the *chismis* about me being a brat and *matapobre*. But the truth is, I come from a very average, normal family. We're not rich at all. My parents just happen to work hard so they were able to send me to good schools. I do not look down on people and I know *wala akong ipagmamayabang* but my strong character, values and street smarts."

It's with the same values that she faces endorsement offers. "I turned down a few offers to endorse other local brands because I always thought it would be better to save myself for something I really believe in and that I would actually patronize, and not just take the talent fee and go shopping somewhere else."

It was Bench that finally got the nod. "It was worth the wait," Bianca says.

When asked what her favorite pieces from Bench Body are, she says, "The underwear is amazing. It can very well compete with imported, expensive brands. I only used to wear the imported stuff but now I never have to spend on expensive underwear again."

Did she find modeling underwear difficult? "It wasn't hard to model Bench underwear because the ones we wore were cute, candy-colored girly designs. It hardly felt like underwear, it was more like swimwear."

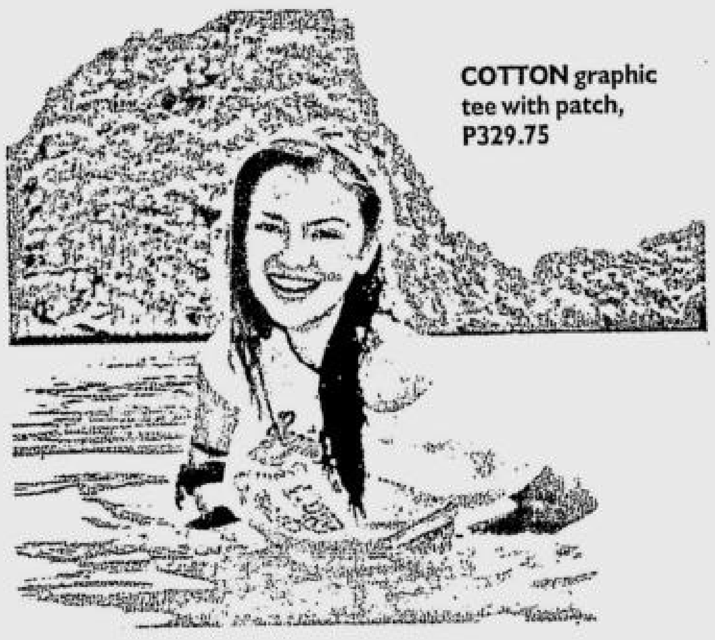
When Bianca's not working, she likes going out of town for wakeboarding. "I also go to the mall, but not for shopping. I hang out in bookstores and browse through music stores. I also work out at Gold's Gym with a trainer and do Bikram Yoga. At home I watch a lot of local TV and tend to my pets."

Asked about her style off-camera, she says,

BENCH/3

COTTON spandex graphic tee, P379.75, and low-rise hipster with hula monogram print, P159.75

Get to know a pair of heavenly bodies—in their own words



COTTON graphic tee with patch, P329.75

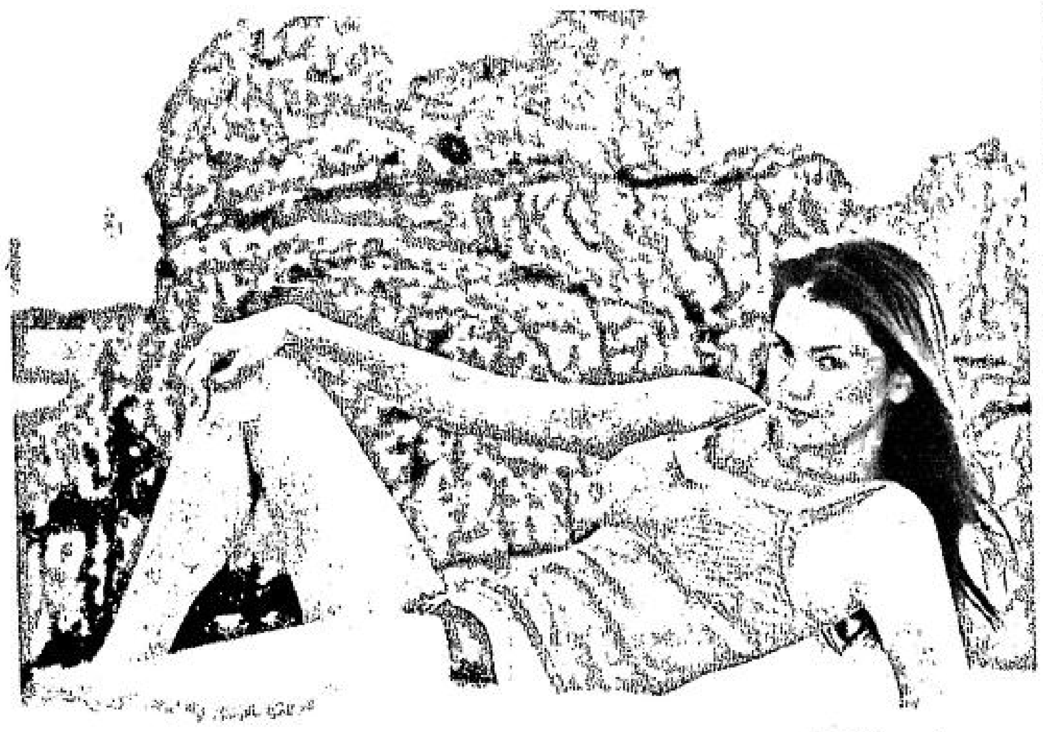
### Name: Angelica Panganiban

Nickname: Angela, Jelai
Birthday: November 4, 1986
Age: 19
Hobbies: shopping, fixing my closet, watching DVDs
One word to describe yourself: mysterious
Favorite movies: "Wicker Park," "What's Eating Gilbert Grape?," "Sweet November," "City of Angels," "The Notebook"
Favorite TV shows: "Friends," "Laguna Beach"
Favorite books: "A Walk to Remember," "Harry Potter" books, books of David Pelzer
Favorite food: Japanese food, seafood, shrimp, crab
What's in your iPod? Reggae, slow rock
Summer must-haves: super nice two-piece swimwear
What can't you leave home without? Cell phone, wallet
Favorite Bench Body product: undies and bras
Dream vacation: Amanpulo
Ultimate goal: Just to give whatever my family needs

COTTON graphic tee, P349.75

### Name: Bianca Charlotte A. King

Nickname: Bee
Birthday: March 18, 1986
Age: 20
Hobbies: watching DVDs and local TV, wakeboarding
One word to describe yourself: relaxed
Favorite movies: "The Goonies," "Cruel Intentions," "Dirty Dancing"
Favorite TV shows: "The OC," "Laguna Beach," "Lost," "TRL" on MTV
Favorite books: "Harry Potter" series
Favorite food: Peking duck, *lechon*, burritos, smoked salmon
What's in your iPod? I have everything—a lot of house, alternative, R&B, hip-hop, senti, oldies
Summer must-haves: a gorgeous tan, weekly trips to the beach, exercise
What can't you leave home without? Driver's license, cell phone, ATM card
Favorite Bench Body product: all the underwear and nipple tape
Dream vacation: Brazil, the Bahamas, Maldives, Egypt
Ultimate goal: To marry the man I love and have beautiful children



**LACE** with mesh V-neck strap tee, P249.75, over striped push-up bra, P279.75; low-rise hipster with hula monogram print, P159.75

**ON ANGELICA** and Bianca: lace with mesh V-neck strap tee, P249.75. On Angelica (bottoms): B/low Overhauled denim P699.75. On Bianca (bottoms): Overhauled bootcut pants, P699.75

# Bench's angels

From page 2

"My style is very schizophrenic. I can wear it all and have tried it all. From girly to preppy, bohemian, beachy, sporty, *sosyal*, *jologs*, trendy and *baduy*. But generally, I'm very laid-back. A Bench T-shirt, shorts and Havaianas *lang*, no makeup, happy *na ako*. I hate wearing heels! I started wearing flats with everything last year—even to formal events. I just make sure they suit the outfit and don't look tacky. I embrace my shortness!"

## Angelica Panganiban

Angelica Panganiban literally grew up before our eyes. She started her career in show business in 1993, when she was only 6 years old. Since then, she has been in a lot of movies and TV shows and has a lot of fans across the country.

Despite detesting *chismis*—the bane of everyone in her industry—Angelica is in love with her craft and says her work is her biggest passion. "I love acting. I enjoy my work especially when I act. I love acting, doing so many roles. *Pwede akong mag iba't ibang tao* in one life *lang*."

She is looking forward to more challenging roles, perhaps to follow in the paths of people she looks up to—"Vilma Santos, Maricel Soriano and Claudine Barretto." Angelica says, "I want to play a retardate or a hopeless addict, *yung malala na talaga*."

This girl takes her job seriously. She is currently busy every day training in *wushu* for a new ABS-CBN show.

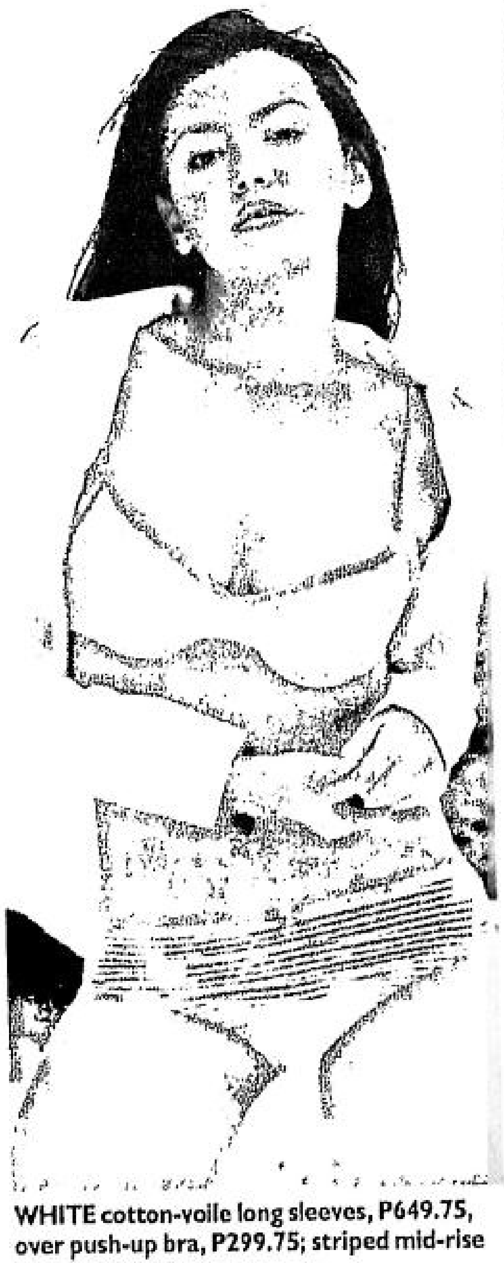
Her new role as a Bench image model is also a new highlight in her career.

Angelica says posing for pictorials is easier than acting, which is why she enjoyed the Bench pictorial immensely. "*Masaya! Siguro kasi sobrang saya kasama ng* group, out of town *pa ginawa. Parang nga* we were playing *lang, parang walang* work."

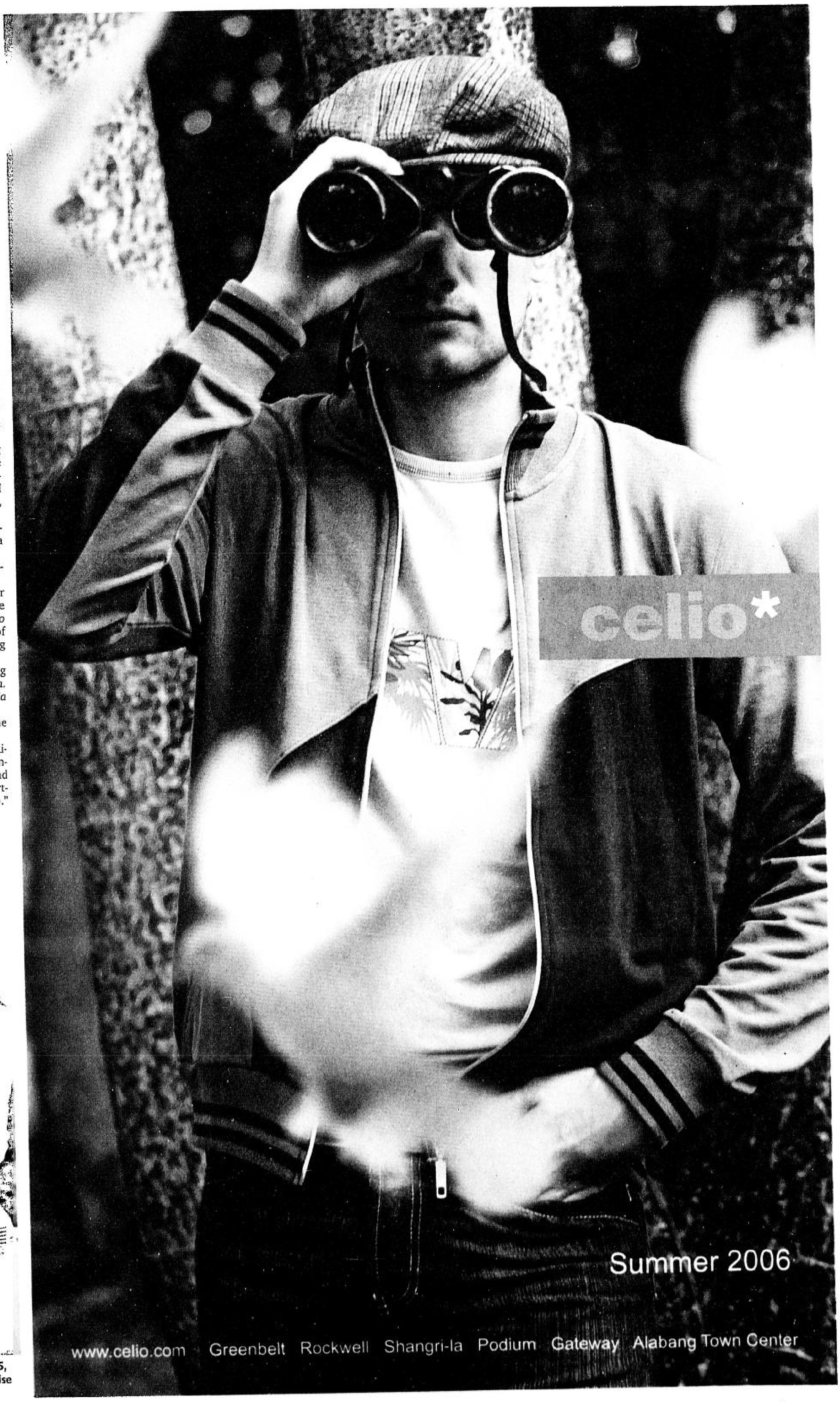
"I'm super happy and flattered, *kasi* being with the Bench family, *parang* you're a star *na*. *Kasi* for me, they won't get you kung *wala kang* X-factor," says Angelica.

She loves Bench Body underwear. "The bras are super colorful and wholesome."

When she takes a break from work, Angelica goes out of town. And when she's off-camera, her style is laid-back. "I wear jeans and shirts. I don't go for a *todo* outfit. *Mas* comfortable *kasi pag* shirt *lang* or *sando lang suot mo*."



**WHITE** cotton-voile long sleeves, P649.75, over push-up bra, P299.75; striped mid-rise bikini, P149.75



celio*
Summer 2006
www.celio.com Greenbelt Rockwell Shangri-la Podium Gateway Alabang Town Center

Think light and breezy feminine, and get ready for your summer fling with Kashieca

**SUMMER SMILE.** Georgina Wilson in short-sleeved, collared pique tee and mid-length floral skirt

# Preppie but flirty

By Irene C. Perez

SUMMER IS HERE, FORGET THE VAMPY look and put those heavy knit tops, tight jeans and knee-high boots back in the closet. Be at your chic-est best in hip, comfy clothes, but please, we're not talking about another boho overkill here.

We're talking about floral prints, basic tees and collared shirts in candy colors—all available in Kashieca's summer collection. Throw in striped tees, collared woven tops and ruffled blouses in pastels for dressier days.

Kashieca, the latest baby among Bench's fashion caboodle, recently launched its summer collection, projecting a "laid-back, preppie country" look.

**CYAN** short-sleeved pique tee with collar

Pair that cotton tee with capri pants and flip-flops for a fresh daytime getup. At night, get funky with an embellished top, gauchos and lace-up wedges.

Now that accessorizing has been a skill (either you make 'em or decorate yourselves with them), go from blah to glam with a bead necklace or multi-strand pearl chain. Add a flirty school-girl touch to your wardrobe with a colorful pompom necklace.

## Summer must-have

And what better way to carry your beach essentials than with the Kashieca embroidered mesh bag? Stuff your *kikay* kit, sunblock, coin purse, cell phone and mp3 player into this pretty nylon mesh bag.

The Kashieca mesh bag, which comes in hot pink and navy blue, also makes for city-trotting, and adds a fun, sunny touch to your basic attire.

This must-have retails for P200, but as a summer blow-out, you could get this baby free until April 30 with every P1,500 single-receipt purchase of regular Kashieca items, and at P120 with every P1,200 purchase.

## Quiet charmer

You need not bare too much skin to look hot. Kashieca leans toward a clean-cut look with a quaint feminine charm. Be confident and self-assured, but sport a slight hint of naughtiness.

Kashieca image model Georgina Wilson embodies just that. Although a self-admitted "girly-girl" of a fashionista, don't mistake this 5'10" chick as just another pretty face.

The Britain-born Filipina was a consistent A-student since her Assumption grade-school days till she got her economics degree at Ateneo de Manila University. She's now getting a double degree in finance and accounting at the University of Sydney.

The 20-year-old's youthful face is probably one of the most noticeable among the billboards you pass by Edsa. She's a refreshing sight in the middle of traffic.

## Reinventing chic

Upon the acquisition of Bench last year, Kashieca renewed its stand as a fashion brand—with fresher, more streamlined items ideal for students and yuppies. Old customers welcomed the comeback, new ones are enjoying the reinvented style.

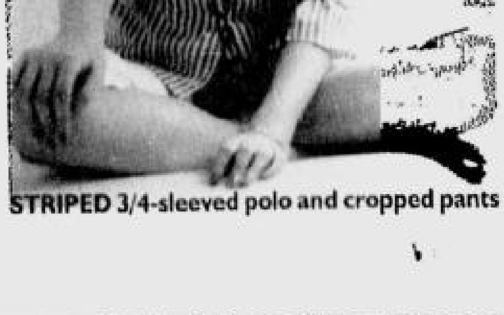
Last year's collection attracted a wide range of women—from teeners to those in their early 40s. And oh, even if you are an XS or a plus-size XXL, Kashieca could sure dress you up.

Charge up your wardrobe with items from Kashieca's collection. Think fresh, feminine and flirty, and get ready for your summer fling.

*Kashieca is available at Power Plant Mall, Glorietta, The Podium, Gateway Mall, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Alabang Town Center; Robinson's Place Manila and Galleria; SM San Lazaro, Manila, Sta. Mesa, North Edsa, Bicutan and Sta. Rosa.*

**SUMMER must-have: Kashieca mesh bag**

BETOY JOHNSON



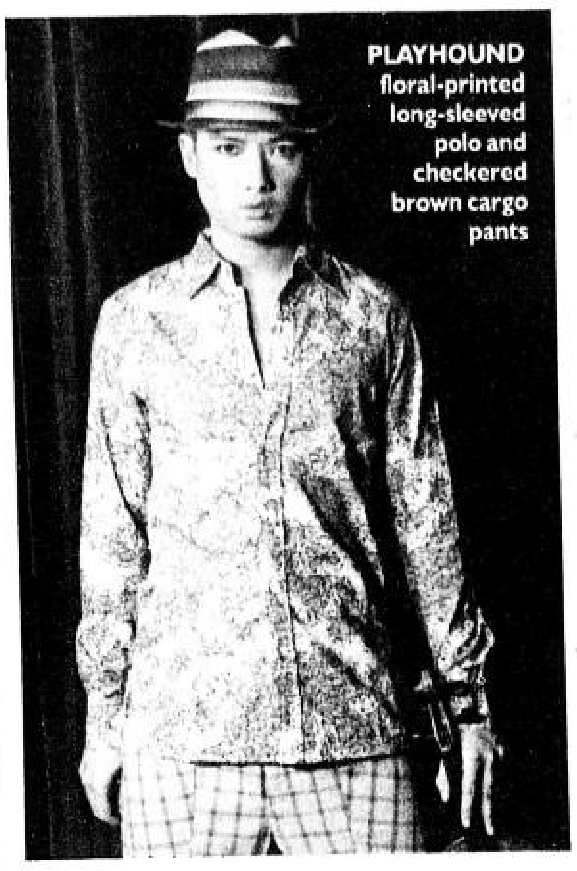
**STRIPED** 3/4-sleeved polo and cropped pants

Disney
cuties
cuties
LOVE TO BE HUGGED
Bench
Is it a CRIME to be this cute?
© Disney

# At play with fashionable twosome

## A Thai fashion house shows why Tim Yap and Celine Lopez deserve each other

**CELINE** in checkered Greyhound poncho over spaghetti-strap top with satin layer, and skinny trousers with cargo pockets. Tim in Greyhound cotton long-sleeved tee over short-sleeved polo with placket detail


**PLAYHOUND** floral-printed long-sleeved polo and checkered brown cargo pants

FOR TIM YAP AND CELINE Lopez, it's another feather in their fedora hats, and something to add in their "things in common" list.

Both fashion and events columnists by day and party people by night, Tim and Celine are Playhound's very first endorsers in the Philippines. The ubiquitous twosome were chosen by the top Thai brand, franchised by Bench in the country, for their forward-thinking style and unique fashion sense—and because they embody the elite clubbing set.

"Playhound is our more playful brand targeted at the younger market, while Greyhound is more for work and the mature set. But they also have party wear," says Suyen Lim, Playhound product manager.

And so it was party, party, party for three Fridays of March at Embassy, where the two new faces of Playhound were launched, and where even the waiters donned Playhound shirts. Button pins bearing the brand's name were given away to guests, while Playhound VIP cardholders were treated to a free drink.

The brand Greyhound was founded in 1980 in Thailand, starting with only a men's casualwear line. Semi-formals for men followed; the women's line, accessories and footwear came 10 years after. It was only in 2002 when Playhound, the trendier and more avant-garde version, was born.

### Summer line

In April, Playhound and Greyhound will unveil a bold summer collection bearing strong Eastern influences: wide sleeves and lifted collars reminiscent of kimonos dominate Playhound's line. Colors are bright and sunny; prints are somewhat opulent with the use of Japanese fabrics.

The Playhound design team also put new perspective to paper, which they transformed from mere object to artful detail—from tissue paper layered into the clothes, discarded strips of paper intertwined to form a new material used in accessories, to the candid use of a flimsy piece of paper stitched on to a T-shirt or jeans.

Tunics, Indian florals and sari-inspired outfits will be seen in Greyhound's East-meets-West theme. There are also skinny jeans, loose trousers, pencil skirts for ladies and fitted trousers for men. Tones are more understated with pastel blues, dark browns, khakis and deep greens.

To make shopping even more exciting, Playhound offers a promo where every P1,000 purchase of any Playhound or Greyhound item, entitles you to a raffle stub that can win you round-trip tickets for two to Bangkok, with hotel accommodation for three days and two nights!

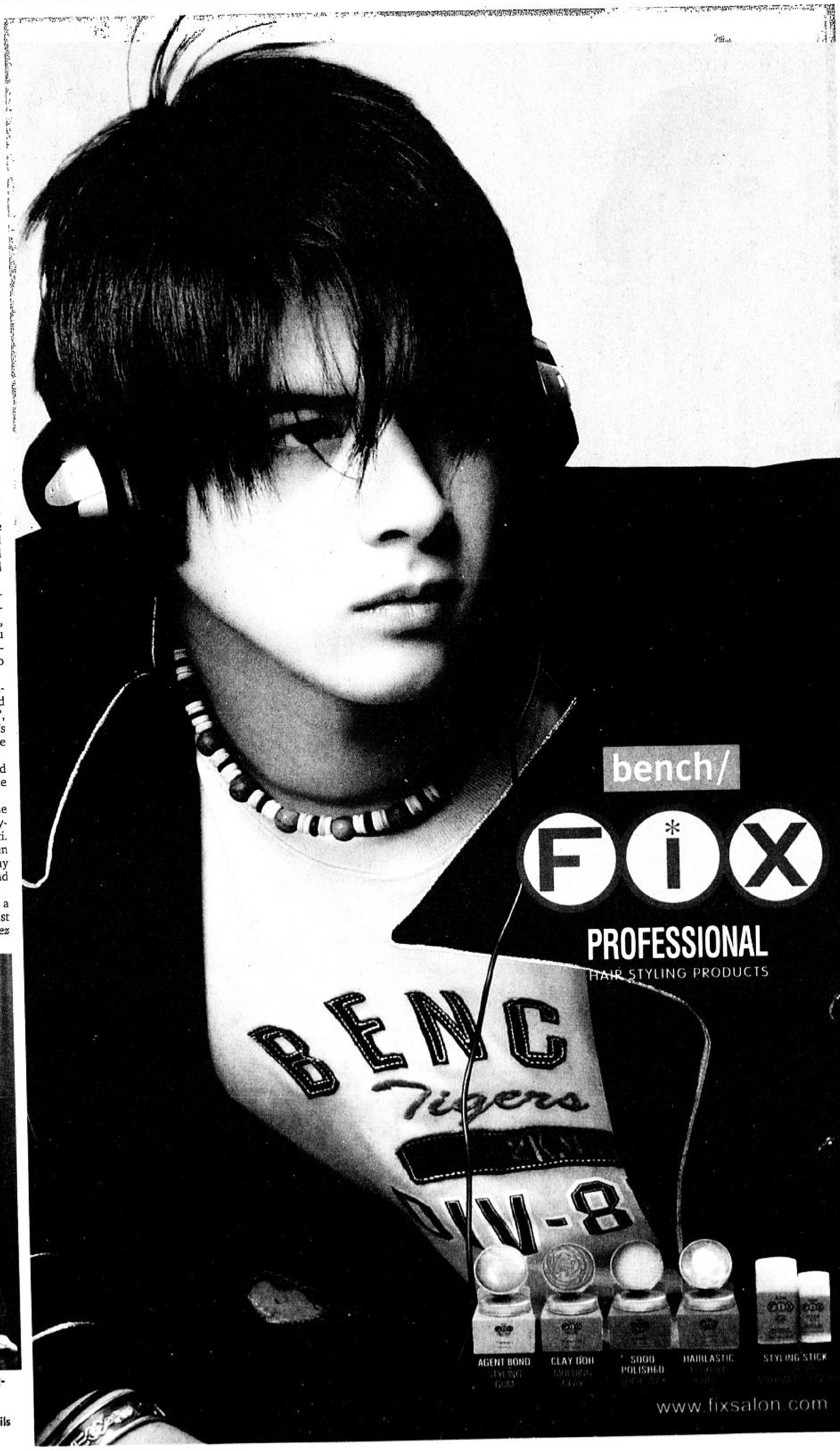
"Bangkok is very much a fashion city. It's underestimated by some who think that high-end Asian brands are not as good as Europeans', but they [Thai] make really good clothes. It's nice to get acquainted with the fashion of the city," says Lim.

You have the whole of summer to shop and increase your chances of winning since the promo period runs from April 1-June 18.

Deadline of submission of entries is on June 18, 7 p.m., at the designated drop box in Playhound, G/F, Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, Makati. Winners will be drawn on June 21, at Suyen Corp. head office, 2214 Tolentino St., Pasay City, 3 p.m., with the presence of both DTI and Suyen Corp. representatives.

Since Playhound clothes cost more than a thousand bucks each, you're sure to get at least one stab at winning the raffle. *Allison Lopez*

**ON CELINE:** Crocheted bra top over long-sleeved shirt with patchwork details, and skirt with puffball layers. On Tim: long-sleeved cotton tee with cut-and-sew details and raw edges, and checkered trousers



THIS gentle body scrub has extracts of papaya and bearberry to keep skin fair and refreshed.

BENCH Organics' soaps are especially formulated with natural seaweed extract to tighten the skin.

# Whiter than ever

## Bench Organics joins the skin-whitening bandwagon

**Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes**
**Photos by Ryan Lim**

IS THE MARKET READY FOR ANOTHER skin-whitening range?

Bench Organics, the all-natural skin and body care line of Bench, believes there's ample room for its newly launched line of skin-whitening products that promise Filipino women a fairer complexion like no other.

Yes, Bench Organics has found a gap in the current market offerings—the absence of a complete natural body-care range that combines the benefits of whitening, moisturizing and firming.

"Asian women in general want to have fairer skin," says Vichael Angelo Roaring, brand manager of Suyen Corporation, the mother company of Bench, Herbench and Human. "With our new skin-whitening products we answer the demand of clients who want to improve their skin texture and at the same time nourish and feed their skin."

The lightening line includes Papaya Whitening and Firming Soap, Papaya Whitening and Firming Body Scrub, Papaya Whitening and Firming Lotion, and Papaya Whitening and Firming Dry Oil Mist.

Roaring explains Bench Organics products have been developed to elevate the act of daily bathing into a complete cleansing and rejuvenating experience. From a soap and body scrub that naturally firms, whitens and moisturizes the skin, to a body mist and lotion that calms the mind and relaxes the senses.

Bench Organics' soap is entirely made by hand. It's also completely biodegradable and does not contain preservatives or harsh drying compounds common to commercially available soaps. It has the finest papaya and bearberry extracts that gently exfoliate and whiten skin, while seaweed extract tighten skin. It has two sizes: 45 g (P20) and 135 g (P49).

The lotion restores skin's natural glow with special formulation also from papaya, bearberry and seaweed. The 95-g tube is available for only P85.

The body scrub contains apricot seeds that exfoliate dead skin cells. The seaweed extract makes the skin firm. The scrub is available at 200 g for P179.

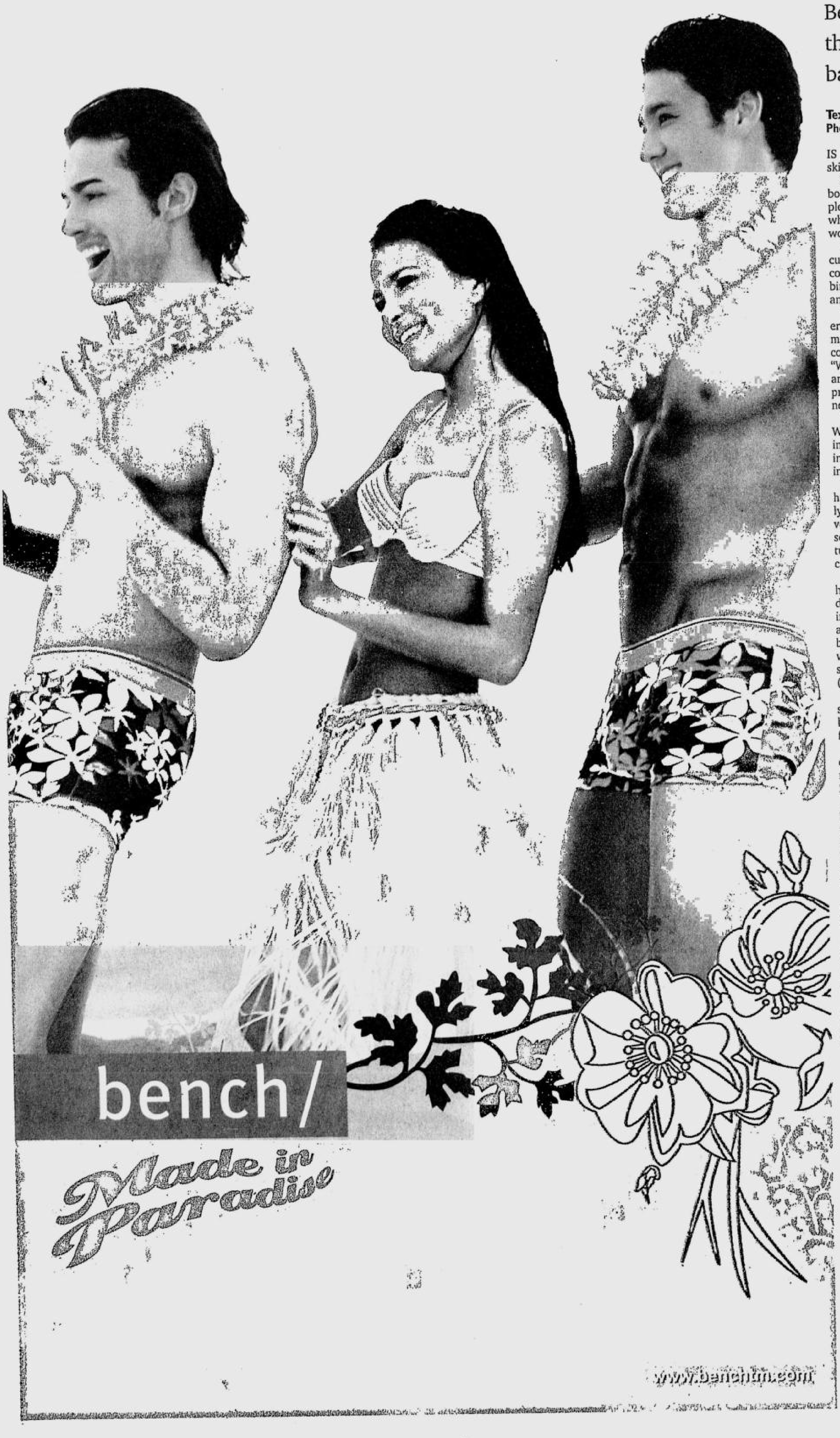
The oil mist is a non-greasy dry-oil mist that seals in the skin's moisture through the moisturizing properties of natural olive oil. It is enriched with papaya extract to whiten and replenish skin lipids lost after bathing. It's also enriched with vitamin E. The 120-ml bottle costs P159.

Roaring assures consumers that all its products are made from natural and organic ingredients.

"We believe very strongly that what we put on skin should be organic, non-invasive, nontoxic and non-irritant to our body to ensure that it forms a vital part of the way our skin looks and feels," says Roaring.

The complete Papaya Whitening range of Bench Organics products is now available at Bench, HerBench, SuperBench, BenchBody and PCX.

PAPAYA Whitening and Firming dry oil mist and lotion rejuvenate and restore youthful skin.



ABENSON
Cool Summer

# Beat the Heat with these Exciting Deals and Offers!

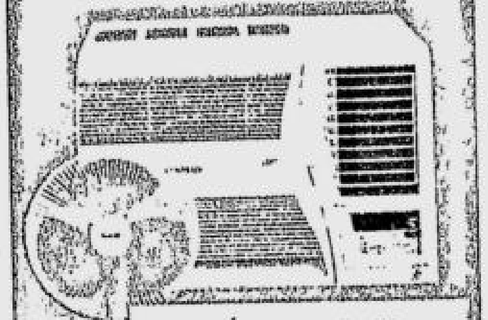
*0% Interest Installment

Cool **Freebies

Super Sulit Deals!

Are you ready for the heat of summer? Need something to cool you down? Well, here's a great deal, JUST FOR YOU! Get a FREE Electric Fan when you purchase any of the participating air con brands at any Abenson branch!

* Per DTI NCR Permit Number 1655 series of 2006

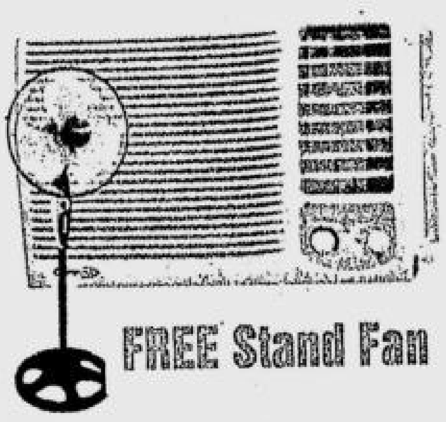


FREE Desk Fan

kolin

Panasonic

Terms and Conditons Apply



FREE Stand Fan

Carrier

SAMSUNG

LG

* Terms and Conditons Apply

FREE Installation

Whirlpool

Panasonic

kolin

Carrier

Terms and Conditons Apply

## TIPS ON HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT AIR CON:

When choosing your air con, do not base your decision solely on the **PRICE** of the unit. Here are some tips that will help you get the **BEST VALUE** for your money. You will actually save more money in the long run if you choose wisely!

### 1.) Pick the Right Size of Air Con for your Room

To maximize the cooling capacity of your air conditioner, you have to make sure that you bought the right air con for the right room size. Buying a 0.5 horsepower unit for your home theater measuring 30 square meters would make you end up literally sweating with frustration. So before you go to Abenson and buy your air con, measure your room. Below is the recommended cooling power for specific room sizes:

ALWAYS remember:

*If **Undersized**, the air con works harder and the room will not cool as desired.

*If **Oversized**, the air con unit will consume more energy than needed, and you will pay more than you should.

| Room Size | Horse Power |
|---|---|
| Below 10 sq m | –0.50 hp |
| 11 to 14 sq m | –0.75 hp |
| 14 to 19 sq m | –1.00 hp |
| 20 to 25 sq m | –1.50 hp |
| 26 to 36 sq m | –2.00 hp |
| 37 to 45 sq m | –2.50 hp |

### 2.) Think Energy Efficiency

Not all air cons are manufactured the same way. Some are more energy efficient than others. It is important to take note of the unit's **Energy Efficiency Ratio (EER).**

The General Rule is -- "The higher the EER, the less energy the unit consumes".

While we normally look at the air con's Horsepower (HP), it is good to take note of the unit's Wattage (Watts).

To estimate a unit's power consumption:

$$\frac{\text{Wattage}}{1000} = \text{Kilowatts x Ave. Rate/kw hr}$$

* Est. Hourly consumption

Consider getting an air con with advanced energy-saving features such as a programmable Timer and Energy Saving Plug.

### 3.) Air Cons should be Durable and Reliable

Your air con unit should be designed for many years of use. To determine whether an air con is durable and reliable, check the following parts:

a. **Compressor and Motor** (Are they made by a reliable manufacturer?)
b. **Motor, Base Pan, Coil, Outer Wrapper** (Make a visual check on the quality and workmanship as rust is likely to occur in these parts.)

Some air con brands are manufactured with optimized anti-rust technology, making the unit more durable and resistant to rust for many years.

### 4.) Know the Reputation of the Company behind the Brand Name

With so many brands available in the market, you may get confused in choosing your air con. We recommend that you consider the following:

a. Know the local company behind the brand name. Does it have a **good and solid track record?** How many years have they been in operation?
b. Will the company be able to back up its **Product Warranty** claim?
c. Does it provide customer service support such as a **24-hour Call Center** and **Nationwide Service Centers?**
d. Will **Spare Parts** be available when you need it? A company that manufactures air cons locally can assure you of spare parts availability.

Now that you're equipped to make a wise decision, go to the nearest ABENSON store to buy your air con! Our friendly employees will be more than happy to assist you with your every need.

A Consumer Friendly advice from **Concepcion-Carrier Air Conditioning Co.** and **ABENSON**

---

SANYO

If it takes 43 muscles to frown,

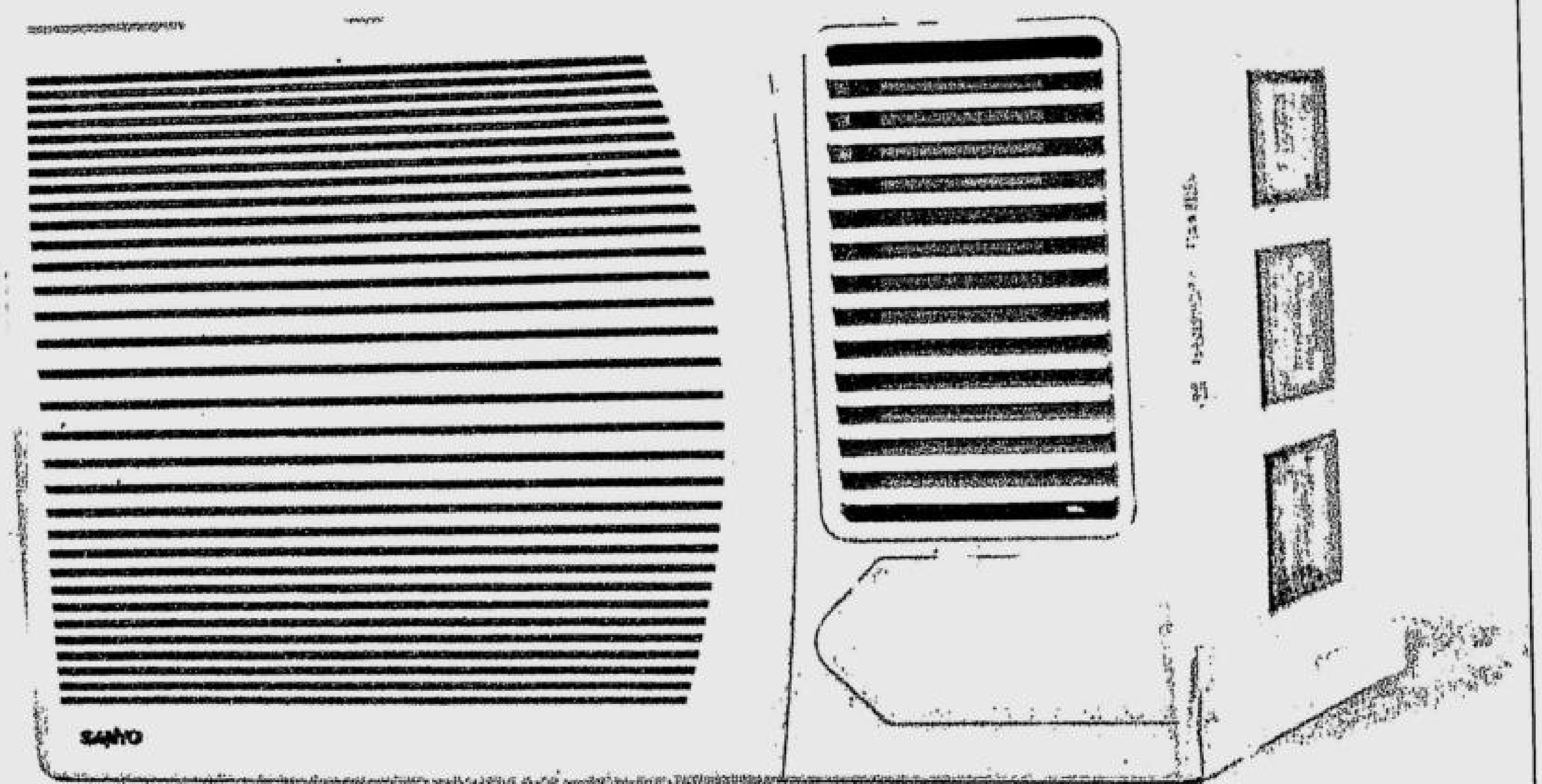
but only 17muscles to smile,

what does it take to keep your cool?

Only
**P12***
a day tops!

*Approximate daily electricity cost based on current generation charges on a four-hour average usage time.

That's how little it costs to run your Sanyo airconditioner to give the cooling level you desire.



## Model SA-186P

Safety electric shock protector • Low noise compressor • Aluminum fins on condenser & evaporator • High current protector • Washable air filter • Double insulation AC cord

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| Alabang | 850-8850/8914<br>8509038 |
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| Avant | 752-2315 to 17/19/20 |
| Batangas | (043) 723-8790/0934/1472 |
| Biñan | (049) 411-4511 |
| Cabanatuan | (044) 464-1482 |
| Cainta 1 | 645-0402 to 04 |
| Cainta 2 | 681-5301to 05 |
| Calamba | (049) 545-7034/35 |
| Carmona | (046) 430-2701/04 |
| Commonwealth | 951-8976/8991 |
| Congressional | 927-9390/9520/9561 |
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| Kalookan | 363-3346/5338 |
| Las Piñas | 872-0576/77 |
| Libis | 687-1613/1698 |
| Lipa | (043) 404-1551<br>753-3142 |
| Lotus | (046) 515-5749/51 |
| Lucena | (042) 373-0443/46 |
| Makati | 812-2882/1584 |
| Malabon | 287-0478/0344/9932 |
| Metropoint | 833-7685/7829/8196 |
| Metropolis | 809-8174/8921 |
| Missouri | 722-1264/4187<br>721-0590 |
| Pasig | 656-6843/47 |
| Pearl Plaza | 851-8401/03 |
| Plaridel | (044) 795-3271 |
| Quezon City | 724-2570/2501/2591 |
| Riverbanks | 941-6003/5191/5180 |
| Rosario | (046) 438-5457 |
| Rustans | 911-2313/3484/2375 |
| San Joaquin, Pasig | 641-4452 |
| San Pablo | (049) 562-8242 |
| Shangri-la | 638-8017/18/19/49/60 |
| Showroom | 631-5188 |
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| Sta Rosa | (049) 534-4689/4619 |
| St. Francis | 633-1362/64 |
| Tarlac | (045) 985-1278/1253 |
| Tayuman | 252-5787/98/86 |
| The Fort | 886-6620/6491/92 |
| Valenzuela | 277-9536/38/39 |
| LCC-Legazpi | (052) 480-7949 |
| LCC-Naga | (054) 473-6003 |
| Pacific mall-Legazpi | (052) 480-6266 |

# BEAT THE SUMMER HEAT WITHOUT BEATING UP YOUR WALLET!

## SAVE Extra with these useful Energy Saving Tips.

While there seems to be no end to the rising cost of electricity, you don't have to spend that much to get the cooling comfort you want from your air conditioner.

### 1 Replace your Old Air Con Unit

It is better to replace air con units manufactured 10 years or older. NEW air con units are made to be more efficient. On a typical 1HP unit, theenergy consumed by a new air con is estimated to be 31% less than that of an old unit. The long-term savings in electricity will cover the cost ofa new unit!

| UNIT | Kilowatts per Hour | ANNUAL RATE |
|---|---|---|
| OLD air con | 1.33 KW/hr | P 38,304 |
| NEW air con | 1.00 KW/hr | 28,800 |
| | | SAVE up to **P 9,504/year** in your electric bill!!! |

### 2 If your Air Con has a Chronoswitch and Energy Saving Plug, use it!

Some window room air conditioners have special devices such as a Chronoswitch and EnergySaving Plug (ESP). The Chronoswitch is a programmable timer that allows you to set the airconto turn on and switch off at your desired time and intervals. With an Electric Fan connected to the Energy Saving Plug, the fan will turn ON when the air con is OFF (and vice versa). You can reduce the running time of your air con without giving up cooling comfort and convenience and you save as much as 40% on your electricity consumption. (Estimated Savings of P 960/month). If your air con doesn't have a Chrono switch and ESP, maybe it's about time that you get one.

### 3 Use your Air-Con for 1 Hour Less

What's one hour less? It's about 13% savings that is estimated to be P 300 saved per month for a typical 1 hp air con! Besides, the residual coolness in the room will keep you comfortable just long enough before the time that you have to get up anyway.

### 4 Adjust the Thermostat 1 Degree Higher than Usual

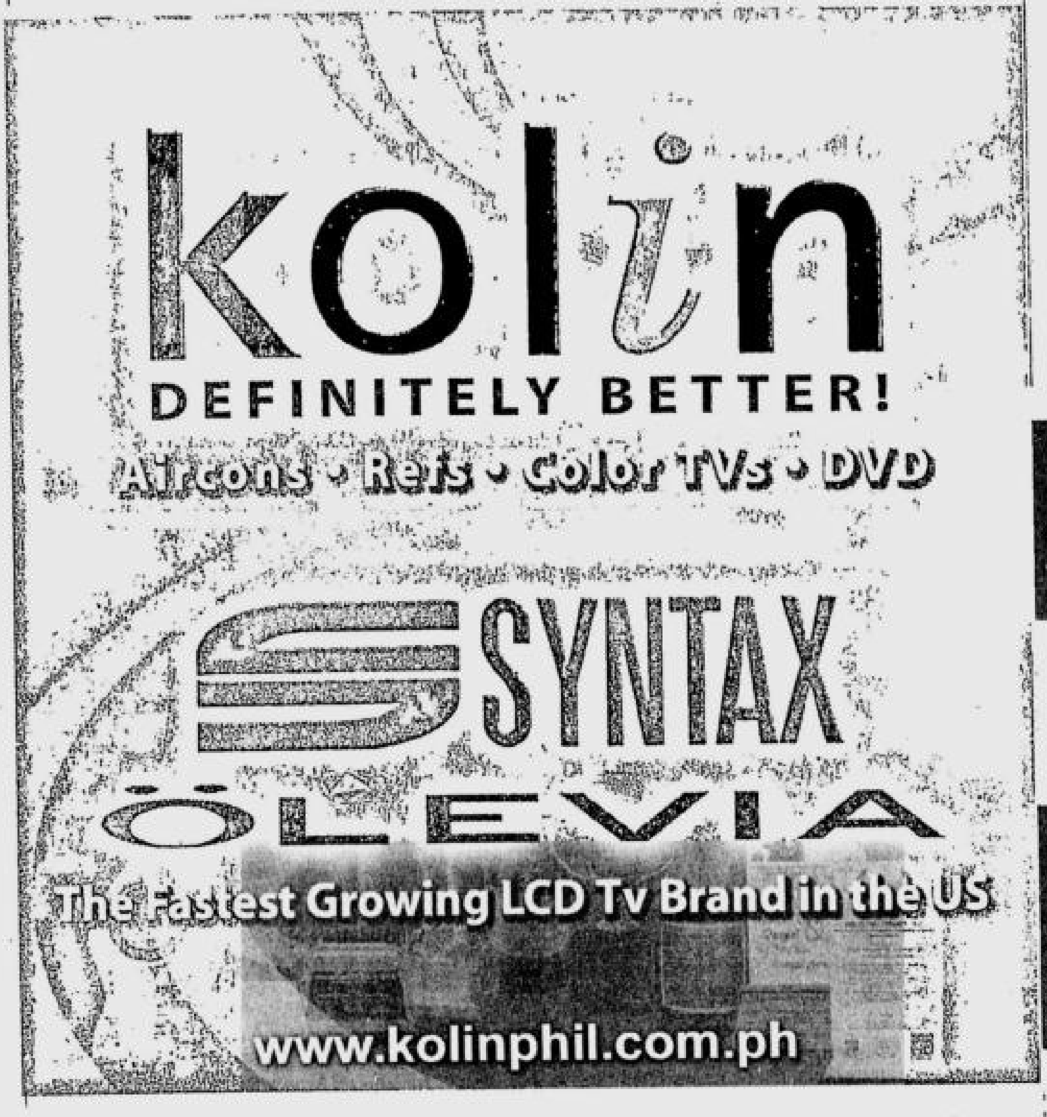
The cooler the room has to be, the harder the air con has to work and the more power it needs.One degree higher isn't much; you might not even notice the difference. What you will notice are **savings as much as 3% - SAVE up to P 864/year!**

### 5 Clean and Maintain your Air Con Regularly

Dirt buildup and unbalanced refrigerant charges will decrease your air con's efficiency. Keeping it in tip-top shape could save you as much as 3% - and SAVE up to P864/year.

*If you follow these tips, you can enjoy the cooling comfort and convenience provided by an air con without hurting your wallet!*

*A public service message from the largest air conditioning company in the country CONCEPCION-CARRIER AIR CONDITIONING and ABENSON. The No. 1 Retail Appliance store in the country today. Figures are based on a study made for Air Con users. Applicability may vary.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Aircons • Refs • Color TVs • DVD
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OLEVIA
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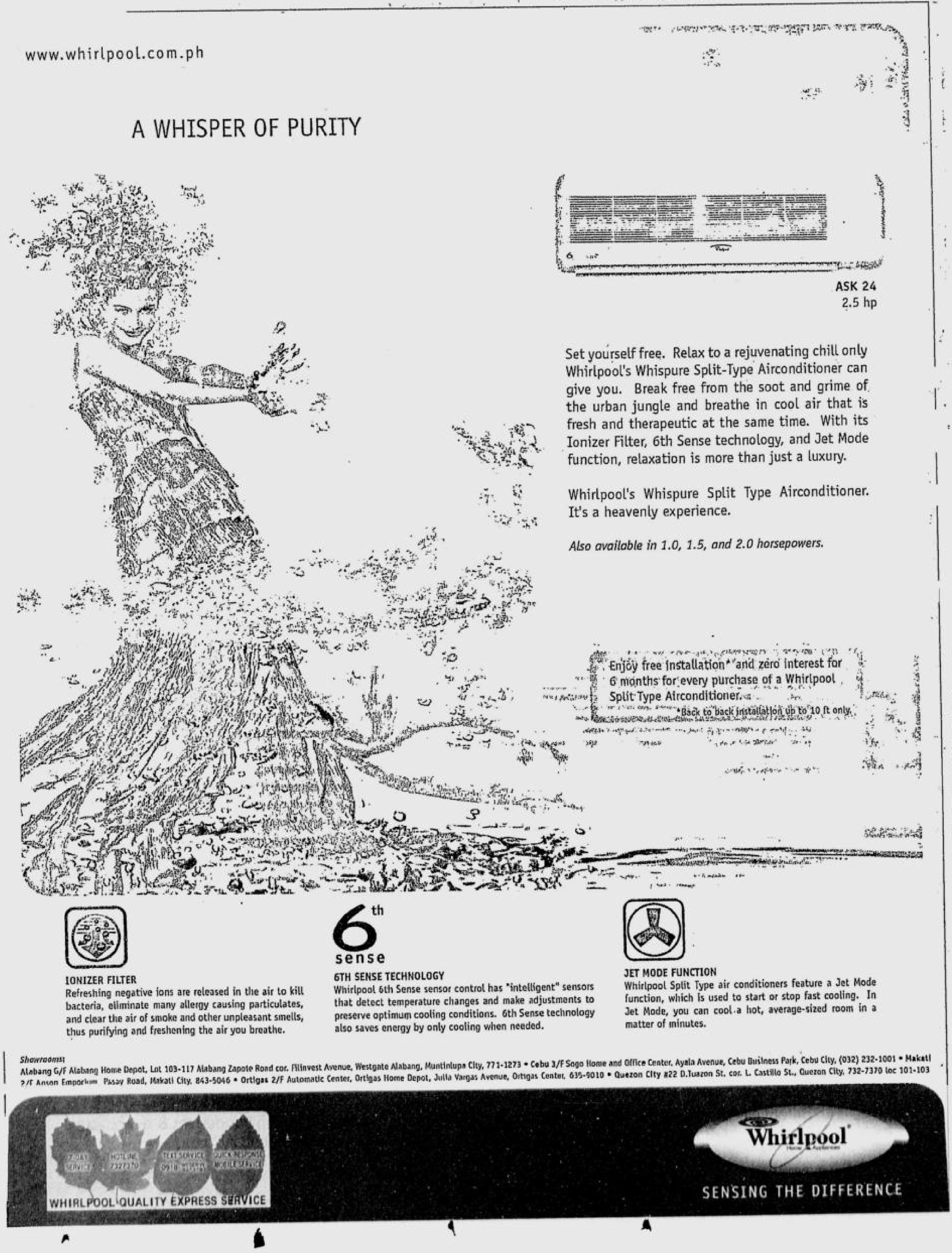

Set yourself free. Relax to a rejuvenating chill only Whirlpool's Whispure Split-Type Airconditioner can give you. Break free from the soot and grime of the urban jungle and breathe in cool air that is fresh and therapeutic at the same time. With its Ionizer Filter, 6th Sense technology, and Jet Mode function, relaxation is more than just a luxury.

Whirlpool's Whispure Split Type Airconditioner. It's a heavenly experience.

*Also available in 1.0, 1.5, and 2.0 horsepowers.*

Enjoy free installation* and zero interest for 6 months for every purchase of a Whirlpool Split Type Airconditioner.

*Back to back installation up to 10 ft only.

**IONIZER FILTER**
Refreshing negative ions are released in the air to kill bacteria, eliminate many allergy causing particulates, and clear the air of smoke and other unpleasant smells, thus purifying and freshening the air you breathe.

**6TH SENSE TECHNOLOGY**
Whirlpool 6th Sense sensor control has "intelligent" sensors that detect temperature changes and make adjustments to preserve optimum cooling conditions. 6th Sense technology also saves energy by only cooling when needed.

**JET MODE FUNCTION**
Whirlpool Split Type air conditioners feature a Jet Mode function, which is used to start or stop fast cooling. In Jet Mode, you can cool a hot, average-sized room in a matter of minutes.

*Showrooms:*
Alabang G/F Alabang Home Depot, Lot 103-117 Alabang Zapote Road cor. Filinvest Avenue, Westgate Alabang, Muntinlupa City, 771-1273 • Cebu 3/F Sogo Home and Office Center, Ayala Avenue, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City, (032) 232-1001 • Makati 2/F Anson Emporium Pasay Road, Makati City, 843-5046 • Ortigas 2/F Automatic Center, Ortigas Home Depot, Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, 635-9010 • Quezon City #22 D.Tuazon St. cor. L. Castillo St., Quezon City, 732-7370 loc 101-103

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# ABENSON Cool Summer

**Visit us!**

**Enjoy 0% interest installment and freebies in summer's hottest gadget exhibit!**

# GADGET CRAZE

**Level 1,**
**Shangri-la Mall,**
**March 31 to April 9, 2006**

Shangri-La Plaza

## Super Sulit Deals!

**Carrier**
FREE FAN
WCARF010EA
1HP
Manual
SRP 14,678

**Kelvinator**
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.5HP
Manual
SRP 8,226

**kolin**
FREE FAN
KAG-08ME
.75HP
Manual
SRP 10,855
Not actual item.

**SAMSUNG**
FREE FAN
AW - 07P1HBA
.75HP
Manual
SRP 9,995

**LG**
LA050MG
.5HP
Manual
SRP 7,998

## COOL DEALS

**SAMSUNG**
FREE FAN
AW-07F2NBD
.75HP
Timer
SRP 10,795

**CONDURA**
FREE FAN
WCOND006EA
.5HP
Manual
SRP 8,764

**LG**
FREE FAN
LG LA100MG
1HP
Timer
SRP 12,599

**Panasonic**
FREE FAN
CW-SC92JPH
1HP
Manual
SRP 13,499

| | | HP | EER | PRICES |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Panasonic | CS/U-PC9EKQ | 1 | 11.1 | 21,999 |
| | CS/U-XC12EKQ | 1.5 | 11.5 | 40,999 |
| | CS/U-C18EKQ | 2 | 11.2 | 36,599 |
| | CS/U-C24EKQ | 2.5 | 9.8 | 40,799 |
| Carrier | 42EXP009 | 1 | 10.5 | 27,165 |
| | 42KCE012 | 1.5 | 10.1 | 25,115 |
| | 42EXP020 | 2 | 11.7 | 38,440 |
| | 42KCE024 | 2.5 | 10 | 39,975 |
| kolin | KSG-10B1 | 1 | 11.5 | 19,075 |
| | KSG-15B1 | 1.5 | 11.5 | 23,200 |
| | KSG-20B1 | 2 | 9.5 | 30,230 |
| | KSG-25B1M | 2.5 | 9.7 | 37,480 |

FREE

*terms and conditions apply

0% applicable on selected items provided monthly bill is paid in full. Subject to bank approval.
Pictures may vary from actual items. Promo period: March 15-April 30. Per DTI-NCR Permit no. 1655 Series of 2006

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The better choice is now even better.
And this is for keeps.

**Our aircons
are made
with the exclusive
DURA-LAST® technology.
With optimized
anti-rust design,
your CONDURA
will remain rust-free
for years to come.**

CONDURA

*The better choice made even better.*

ABENSON
Cool Summer
0%
ENJOY LONGER AND LIGHTER TERMS
HSBC's 0% Interest on Instalment*
4 - 8 - 14
months months months

Interest Free Instalment on a great selection of appliances using your HSBC Credit Card for the 4, 8 and 14 month tenors. Exclusively at ABENSON.

HSBC
The world's local bank

Abenson offers 0% Interest Installment plans through HSBC and is available to all HSBC credit card holders. It ensures total customer satisfaction by giving the consumer a chance to enjoy the new product, without worrying about his or her budget. In fact, there will be a 17-Day Promo in all Abenson Branches from March 24 to April 9, 2006, where HSBC credit cardholders could avail of exclusive light and easy installment deals at 0% interest payable over 4 Months on all major appliances and 8 or 14 months on selected appliances.

Promo Period: March 24 - April 9, 2006
* HSBC's Instalment Plan terms and conditions apply
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1463 Series of 2006

# LG Named Global No. 1 Air Conditioner

For six consecutive years since 2000, LG Electronics' air-conditioner was proclaimed GLOBAL No. 1 by the Japan Air-Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration News (JARN). In the banner story of its latest newsletter publication released worldwide to over 300 countries, LG Electronics remained on top of its competitors by posting a high 45% difference in global sales over its nearest competitor.

LG Electronics' air-conditioner has also posted 10 million units sales for two consecutive years since 2004.

2000~2005
Global No.1

### Local Recognitions and Awards

Similarly, LG Electronics Philippines received two distinguished commendations and awards from the Consumer Group Philippines and the Union of Consumer Watch in October and November, 2005 respectively.

**GOLD FIN Technology**
Since the mid-1990s, LGE air conditioners have remained the top choice by consumers around the world. LGE boasts of breakthrough and pioneering technologies which have been the driving force behind LGE's success in the air-conditioning industry.

NATIONAL PRODUCT QUALITY EXCELLENCE Awards

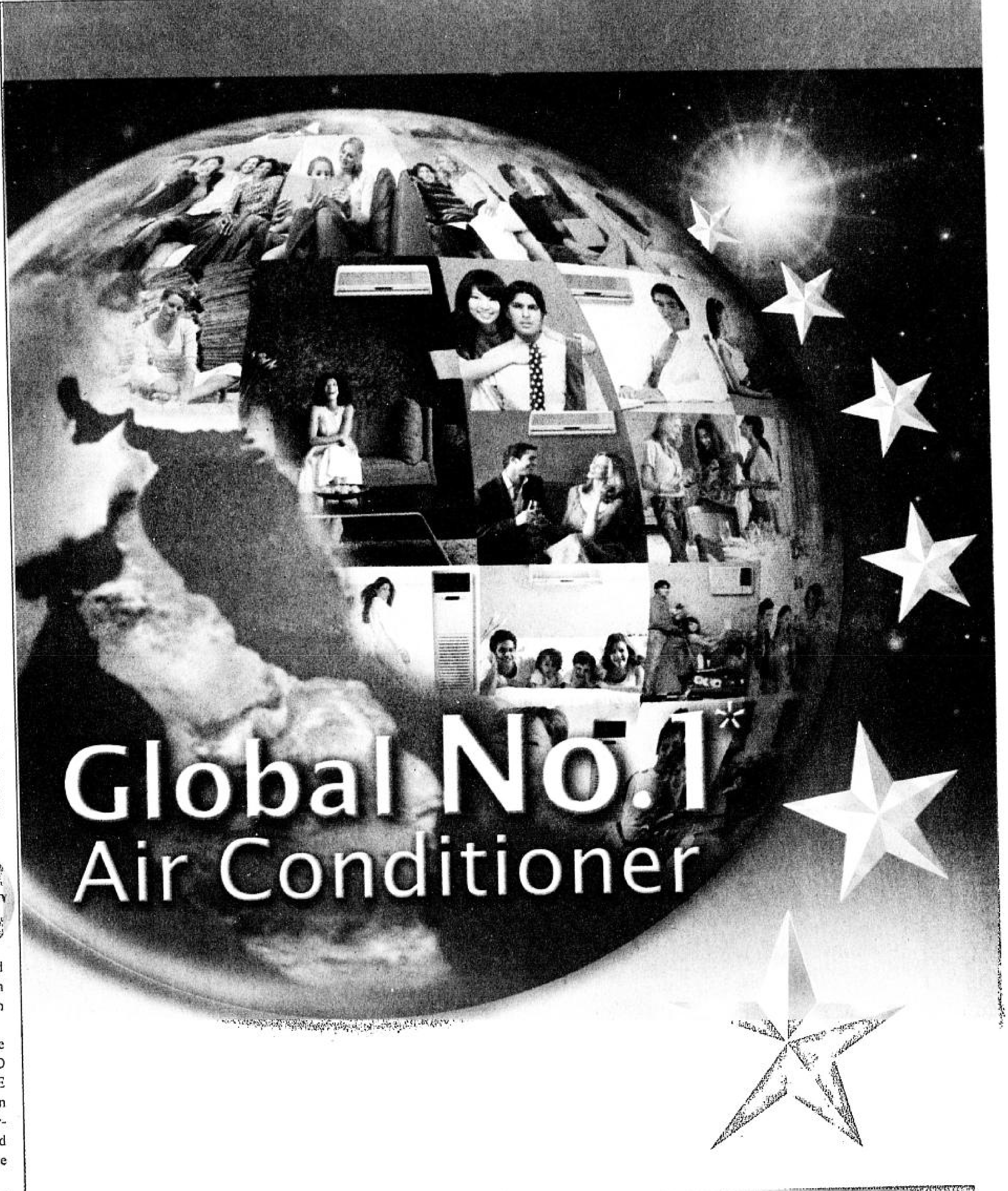
Among its key features, and unique only to LGE air conditioners, is the GOLD FIN Anti-Rust Coating Technology. LGE Gold Fin is a coating of a layer of gold on aluminum and applied on every LGE air-conditioning unit to prevent corrosion, and keep the unit's appearance and performance staying as good as new.

5on5 warranty
5 Year Warranty on 5 Major Parts

**5-on-5 Warranty**
All purchases of LGE air-conditioners come with a full 5-on-5 Warranty which includes a 5-year coverage on not just the compressor but four other parts that include the condenser, evaporator, adjoining tubes and connectors.

### More Innovations from LGE

In late October 2005, LGE unveiled its new MPS environment-friendly inverter system, the "Multi-V Plus" and "eco V". The environment-friendly MPS (Multi-Power System) inverter system, the first of its kind in the Philippines, uses environment-friendly refrigerant "R-410A" which does not destroy or harm the ozone layer. The relevant market for the new product is rapidly increasing in accordance with Indoor Air Quality management laws that took effect in early January 2006, and the implementation of the Housing Performance Grade Marking System.

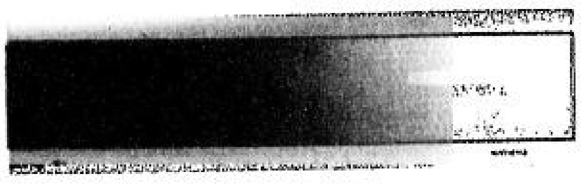


*OVER 10 MILLION UNITS SOLD WORLDWIDE.

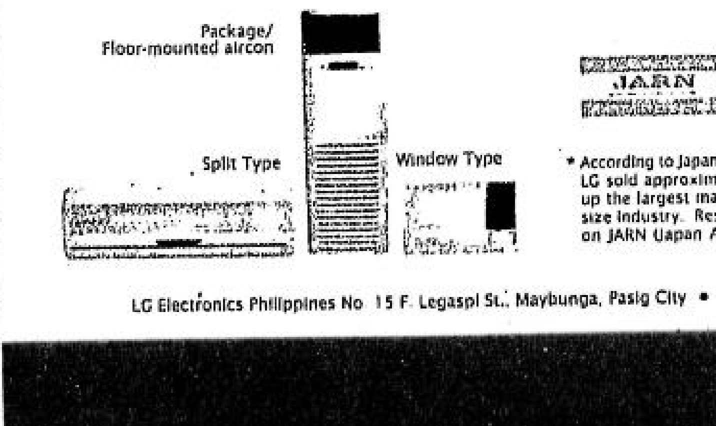
LG is the Global No.1 air conditioner for 6 years running.

LG does more than cool air. More than 27,000 daily new owners worldwide are benefiting from its High Energy Efficient Ratio (EER), thus more savings on electricity consumption.

Life's Good. And LG makes it happen for you.



ARTCOOL Series
(Split Type)



JARN
5on5 warranty

* According to Japan-based Fuji-Keizai (Fuji Economy Research Institute), LG sold approximately 10,500,000 units of air conditioners, taking up the largest market share in the approximately 60,420,000 unit-size industry. Research results of Fuji-Keizai are published annually on JARN (Japan Air Conditioning, Heating & Refrigeration News)

LG
Life's Good

LG Electronics Philippines No 15 F. Legaspi St., Maybunga, Pasig City • Tel. Nos. 641-4181 to 85 Fax Nos. 640-0406, 641-9486 CIC Hotline 640-2525 0917-8242525 0920-9002525

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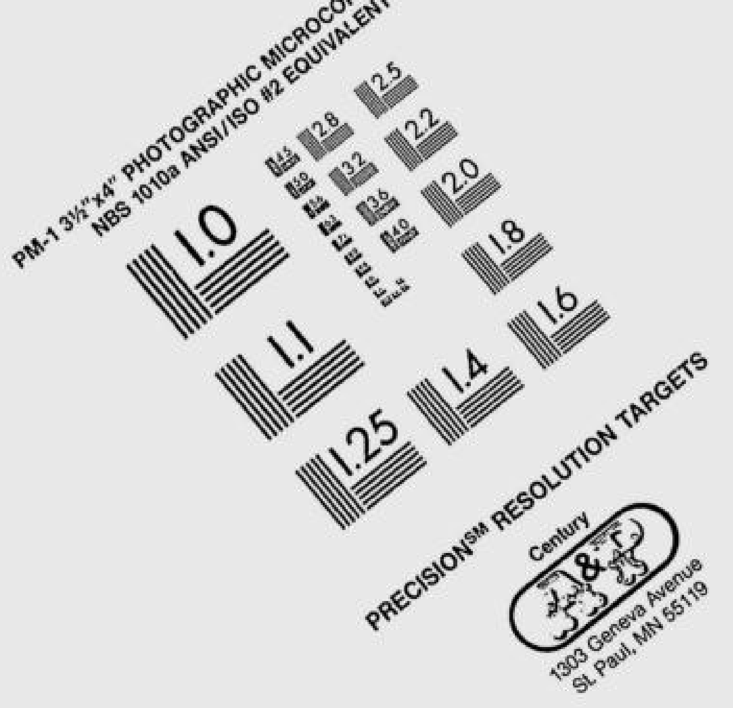
PM-1 3½"x4" PHOTOGRAPHIC MICROCOPY TARGET
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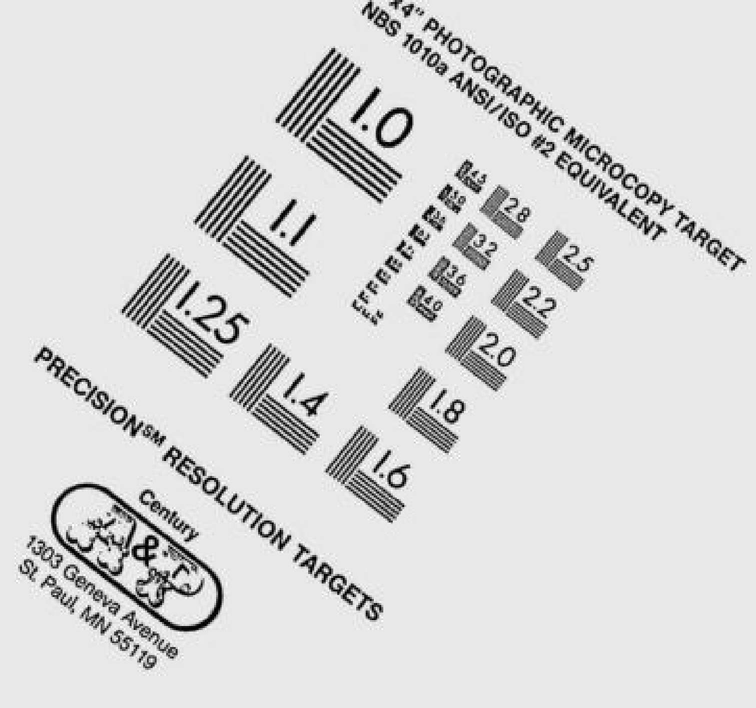
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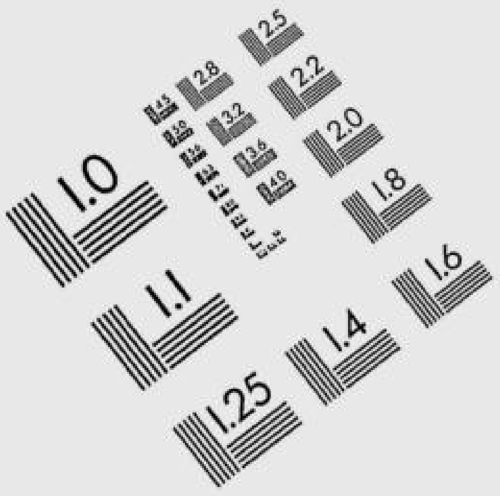
# IMAGE EVALUATION TEST TARGET (MT-3)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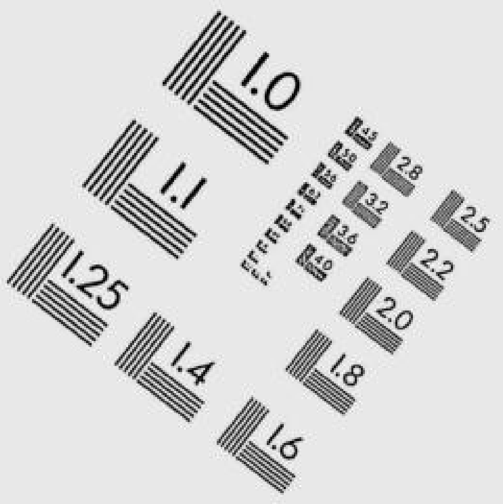
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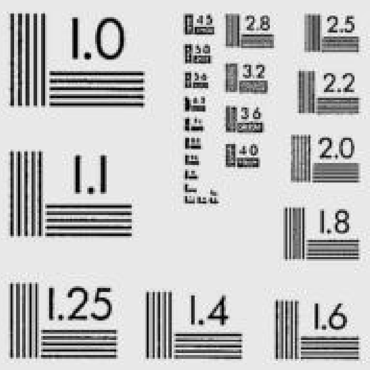
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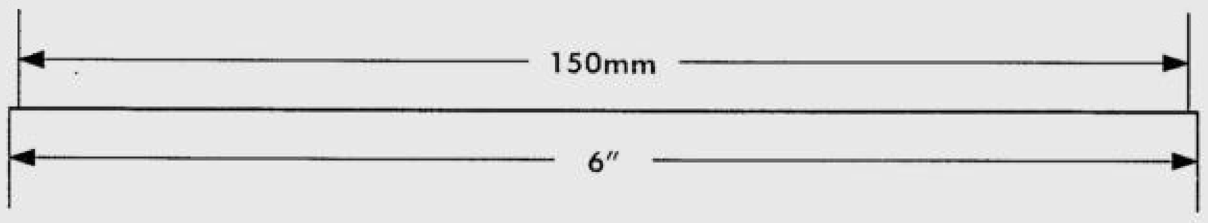

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APPLIED IMAGE, Inc
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Phone: 716/482-0300
Fax: 716/288-5989

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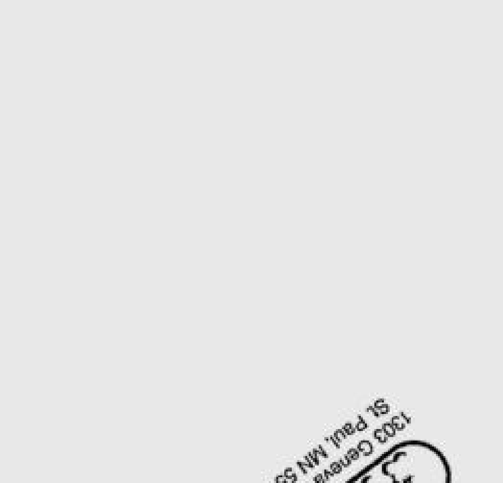
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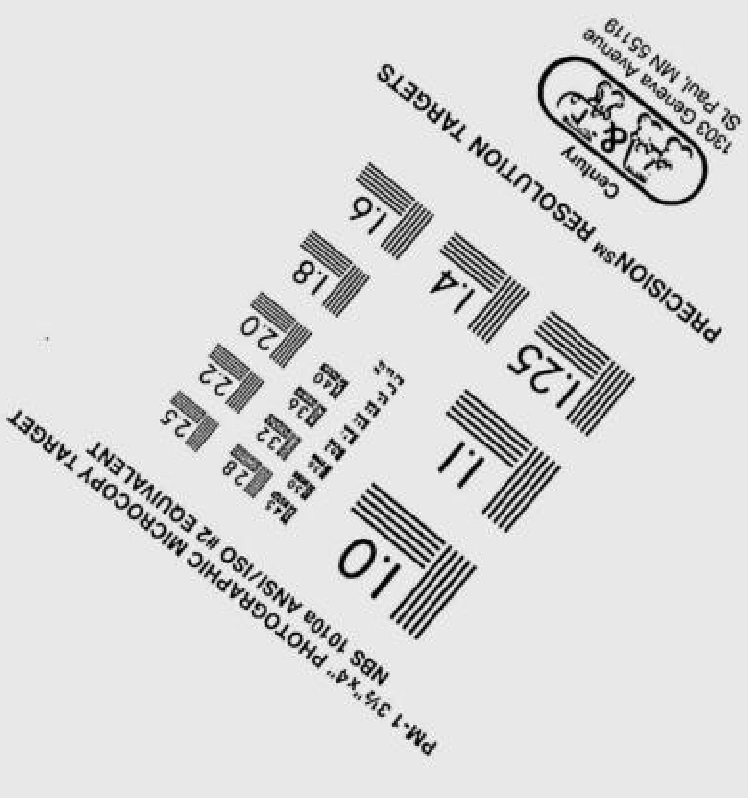
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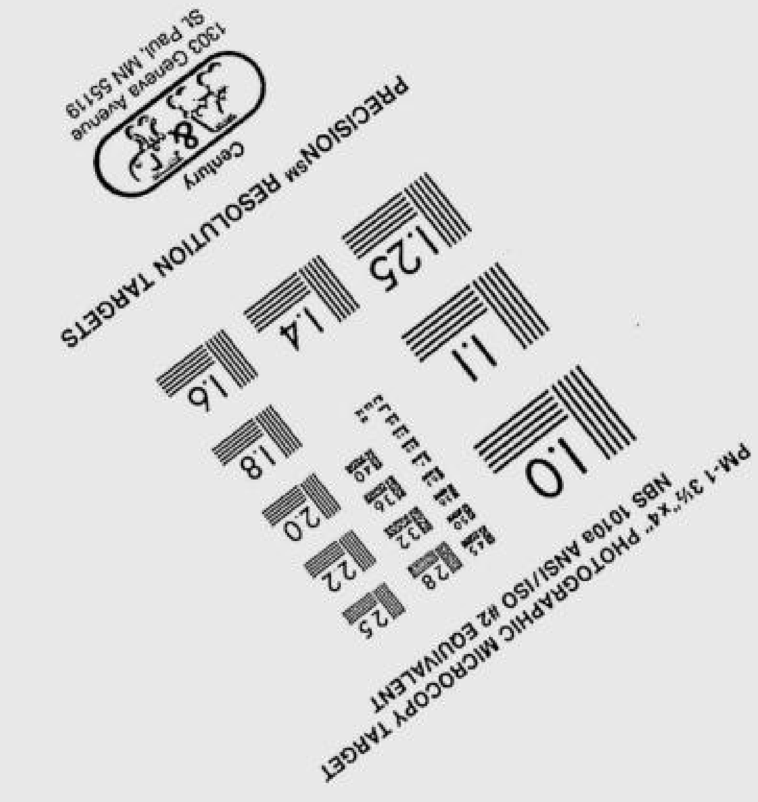
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# PHILIPPINE
# DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, PHILIPPINES

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## 2006

**REEL 377**

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